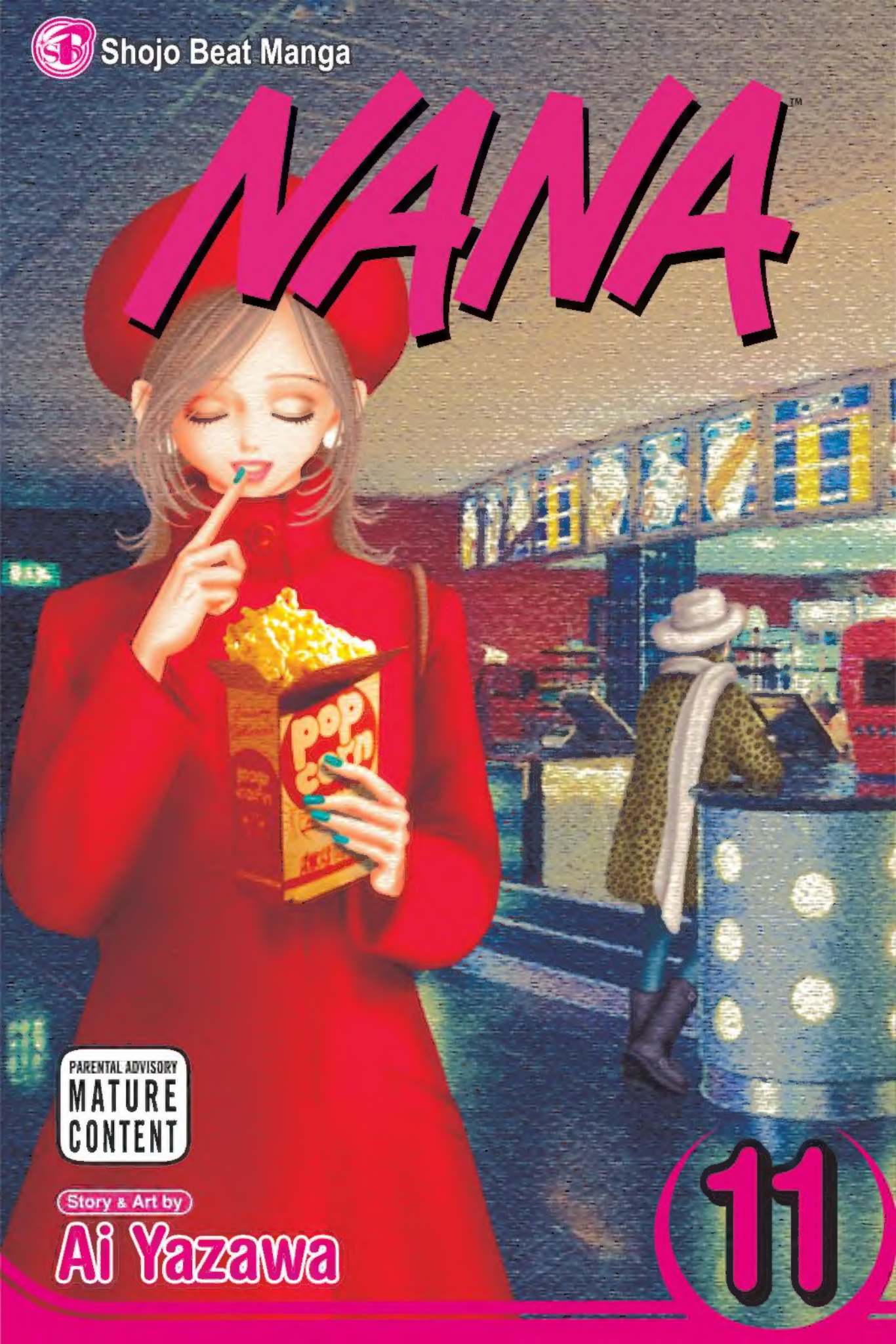
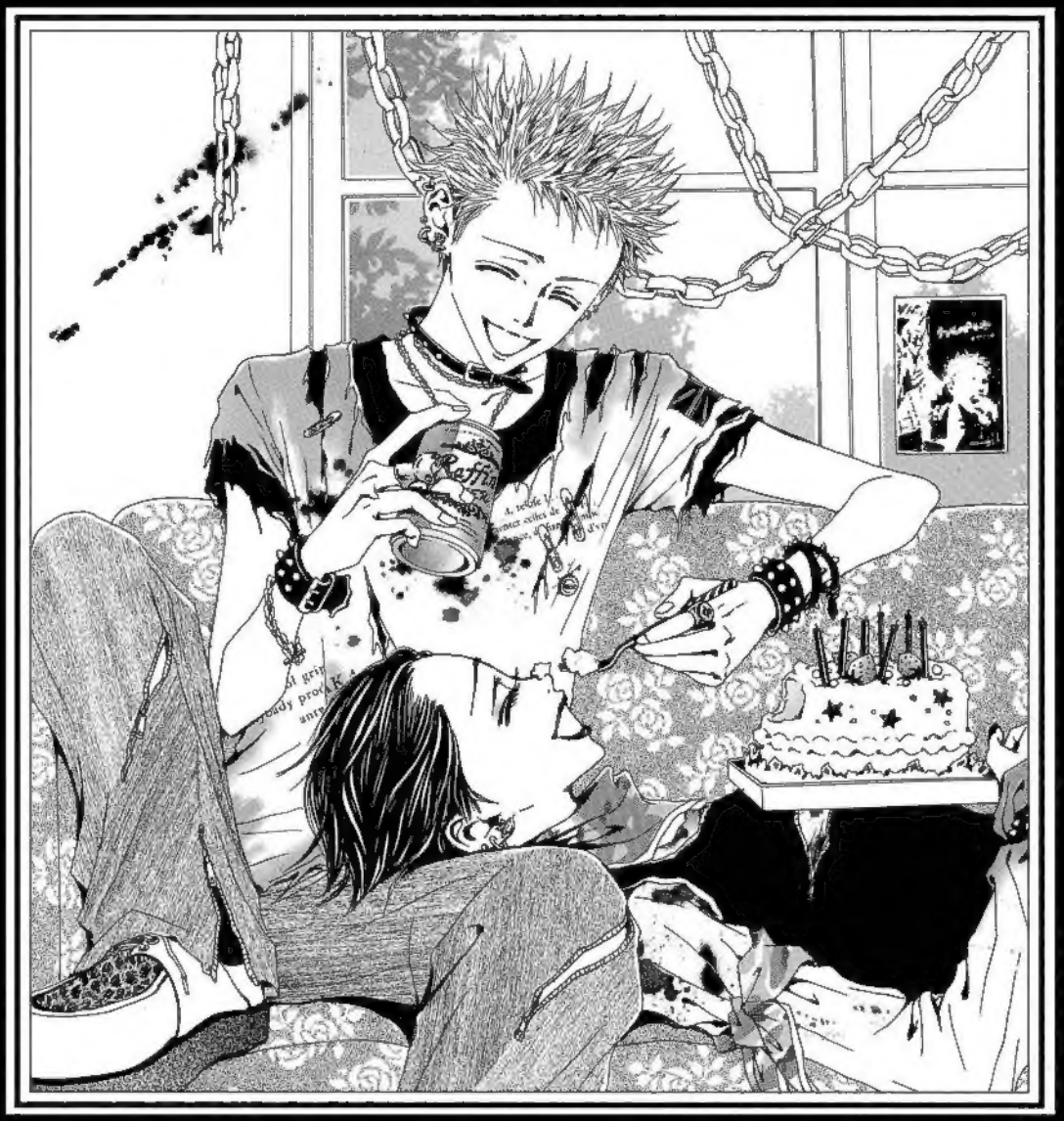

Shojo Beat Manga
NANA
PARENTAL ADVISORY
MATURE CONTENT
Story & Art by
Ai Yazawa
11

Shojo Beat

NANA Vol. 11



Story & Art by Ai Yazawa

NANA

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The Story of Nana

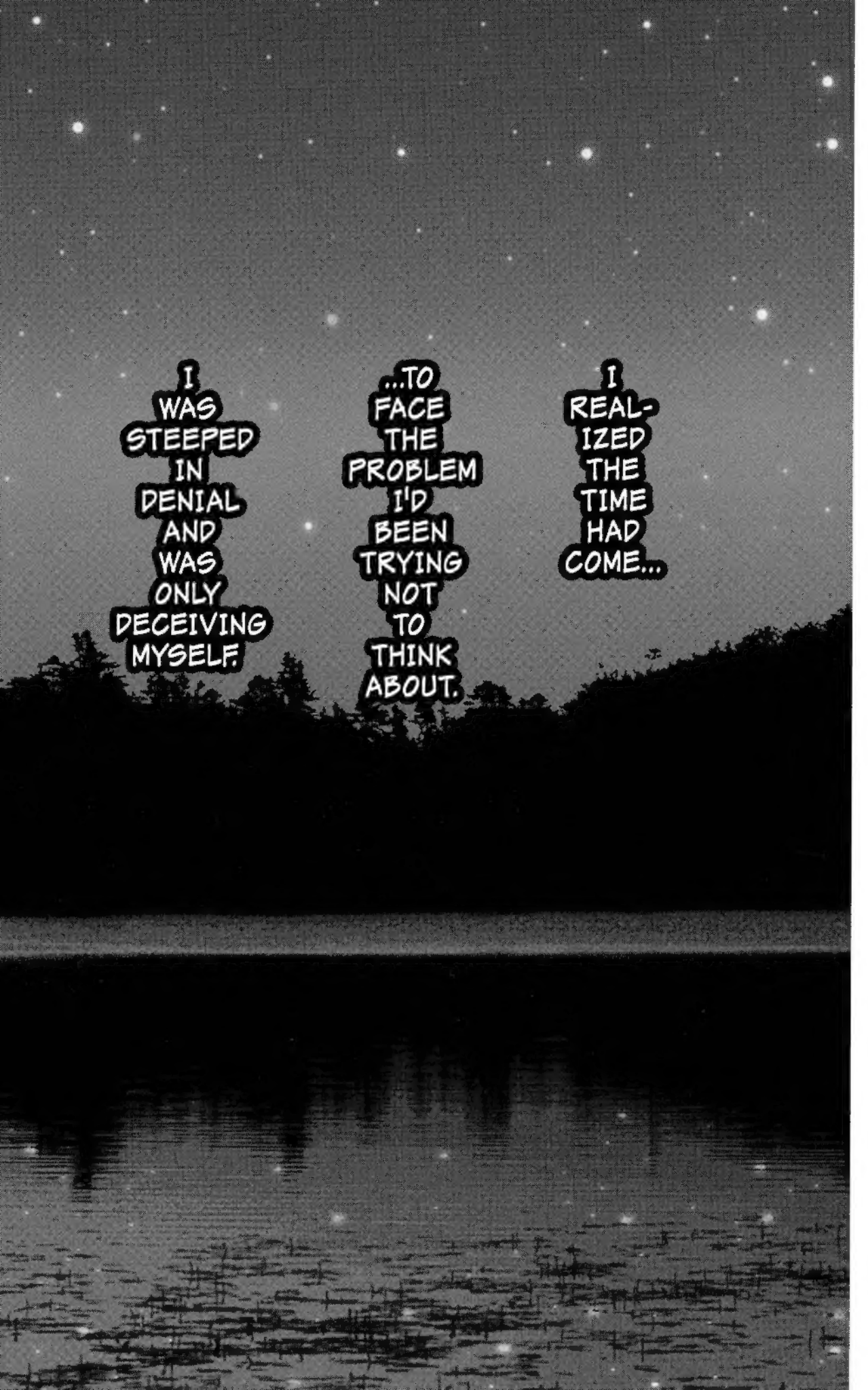
Nana "Hachi" Komatsu and Nana Osaki meet by chance on a train headed for Tokyo. Their personalities and the environments they grew up in are very different, but by fate or by chance, they meet again and become roommates...

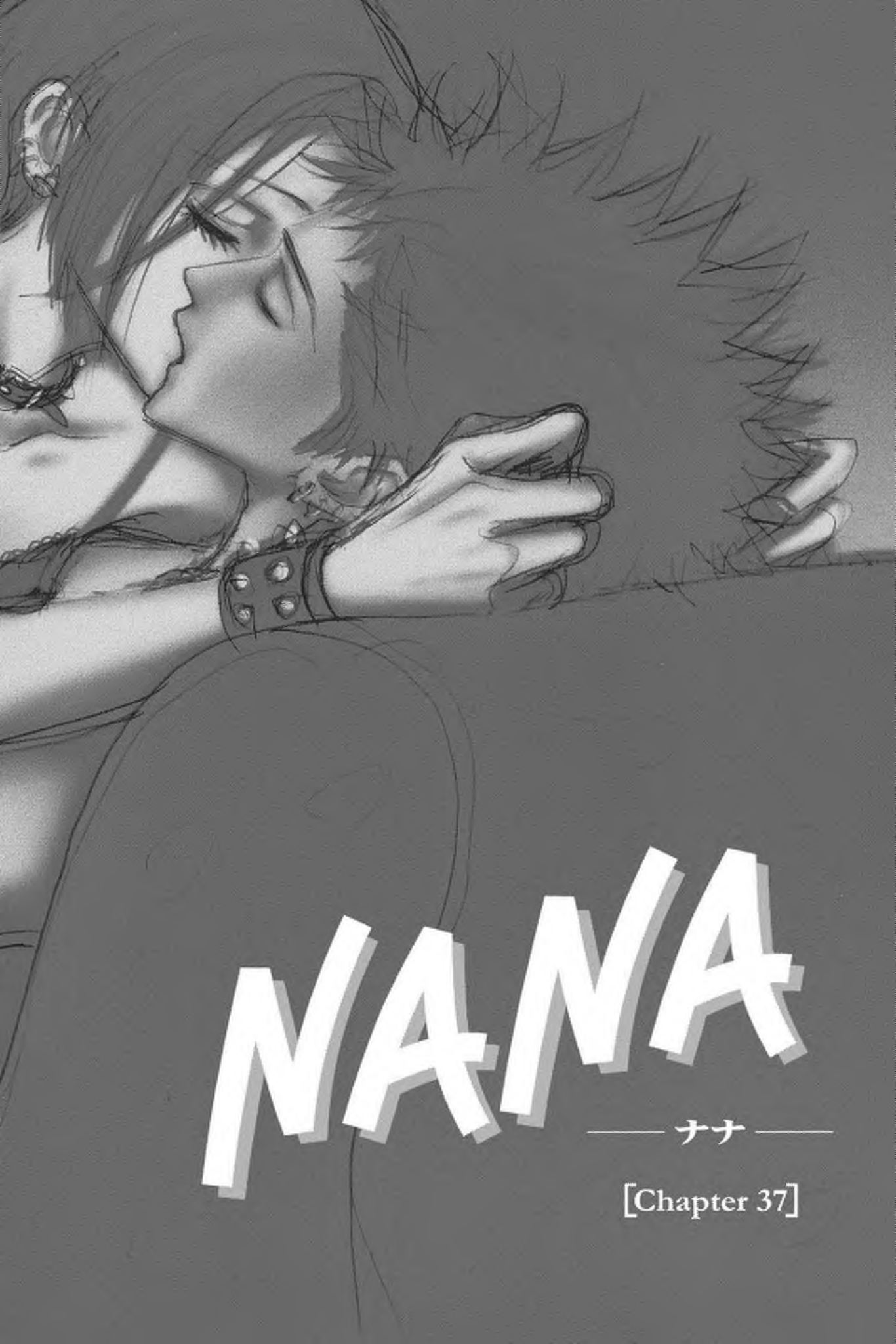
Nana is bent on driving her band Blast to surpass Trapnest, partly to win back Hachi from Takumi. Blast signed a temporary contract with a major label, but nothing has been happening—until a celebrity gossip TV show suddenly reports that Nana is dating Ren from Trapnest. Because of the major publicity, the label decides to rush Blast's debut release.

Hachi watches the scandal unfold on TV and worries about members of Blast's well-being while Nana drops a personal message to Hachi via a TV interview...

Blast gets sent off to the mountains to record their new album and prepare for their debut. Hachi visits her parents back home while Trapnest hides out in the U.K. And when Takumi returns, it's with lots of souvenirs and an engagement ring...

♥For the complete story, please check out *Nana*, volumes 1 - 10.
Available in bookstores everywhere!!


I WAS STEEPED IN DENIAL AND WAS ONLY DECEIVING MYSELF.
...TO FACE THE PROBLEM I'D BEEN TRYING NOT TO THINK ABOUT.
I REAL-IZED THE TIME HAD COME...



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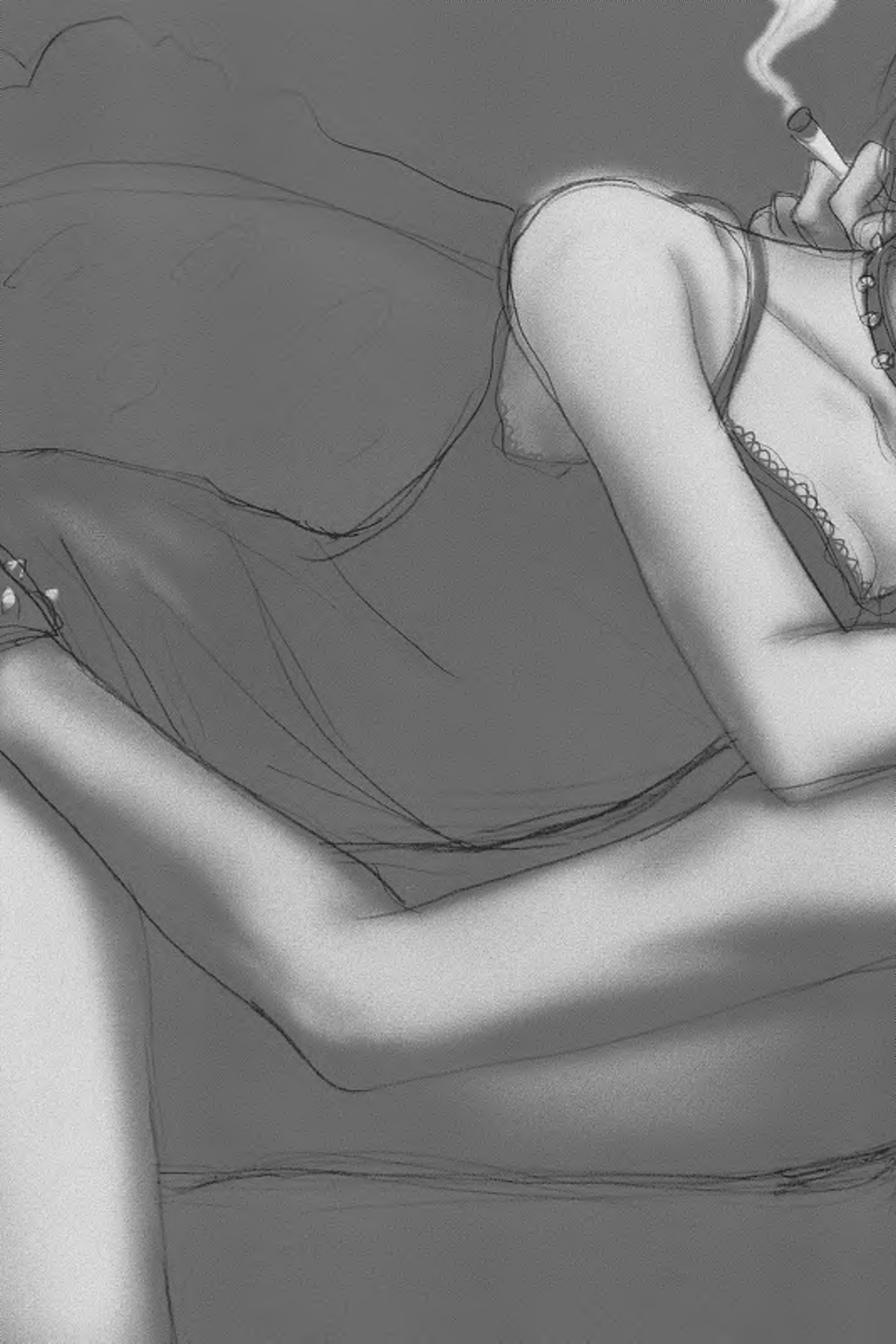
[Chapter 37]



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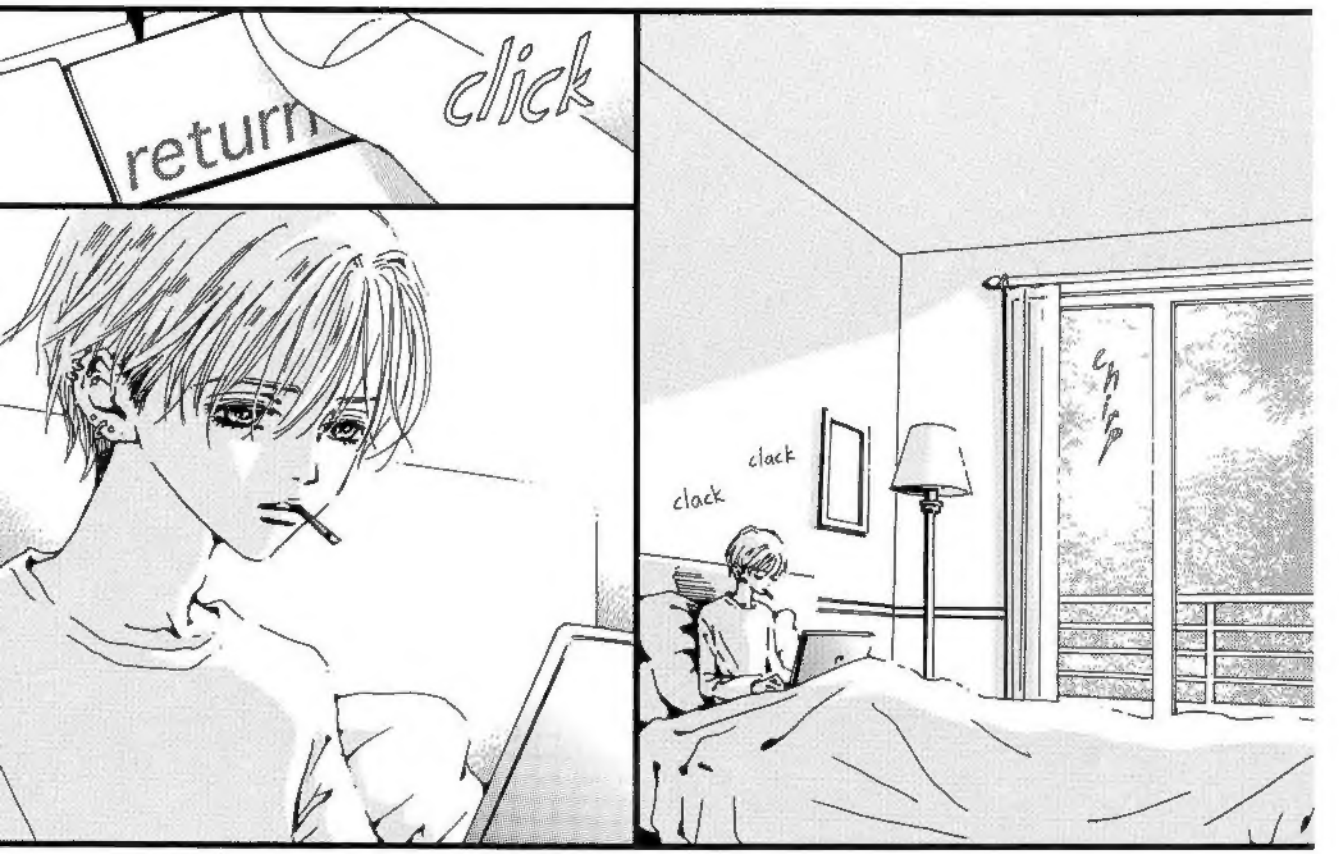


Re: It's Reira!

I JUST WANNA SLEEP FOREVER.
WHY DOES BEING PREGGERS MAKE YOU SO DAMN TIRED?
UGH

You have 1 new message.
read email
1 message

09/24
02:30
Nobu
How are you?
thump
ドキドキ

click
E-mail Inbox
09/24
02:36
Nobu
How are you?
I really want to talk to you, even just once. Is that possible? I'll wait for your reply.
Delete
Reply
Menu

You have no new messages.
NOBU...
YASU SAYS LUNCH IS READY.
IT'S SPAGHETTI WITH MUSH-ROOMS! ♡
AWE-SOME. I BET IT RULES.
YASU'S THE BEST COOK. ♡
SO WHO'RE YOU WAITING FOR A MESSAGE FROM?

SHIN ...
STOP SPYING ON EVERY-ONE ALREADY.
NOT COOL.
SORRY.
BUT I DON'T HAVE TO SPY ON YOU. I CAN READ YOU LIKE A BOOK.
I DON'T WANT YOU READING ME!
flip
BUT I JUST KNOW.
YOU'VE BEEN CHECKING YOUR PHONE ALL MORNING.
NO, IT'S JUST 'CAUSE MY RECEP-TION'S BAD OUT HERE.
SO I'M JUST CHECK-ING.
YOU USUALLY LEAVE YOUR CELL PHONE IN YOUR ROOM, BUT TODAY YOU'RE CARRYING IT AROUND EVERY-WHERE.
....
THE STARS HERE ARE DANGER-OUS.
IF YOU STARE AT THEM LONG ENOUGH, YOU THINK YOU CAN REACH THEM.
AND YOU FEEL LIKE YOUR DREAMS WILL COME TRUE.
chirp
IT'LL MAKE YOU HIGHER THAN MUSH-ROOMS.
WHAT MUSHROOMS ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!

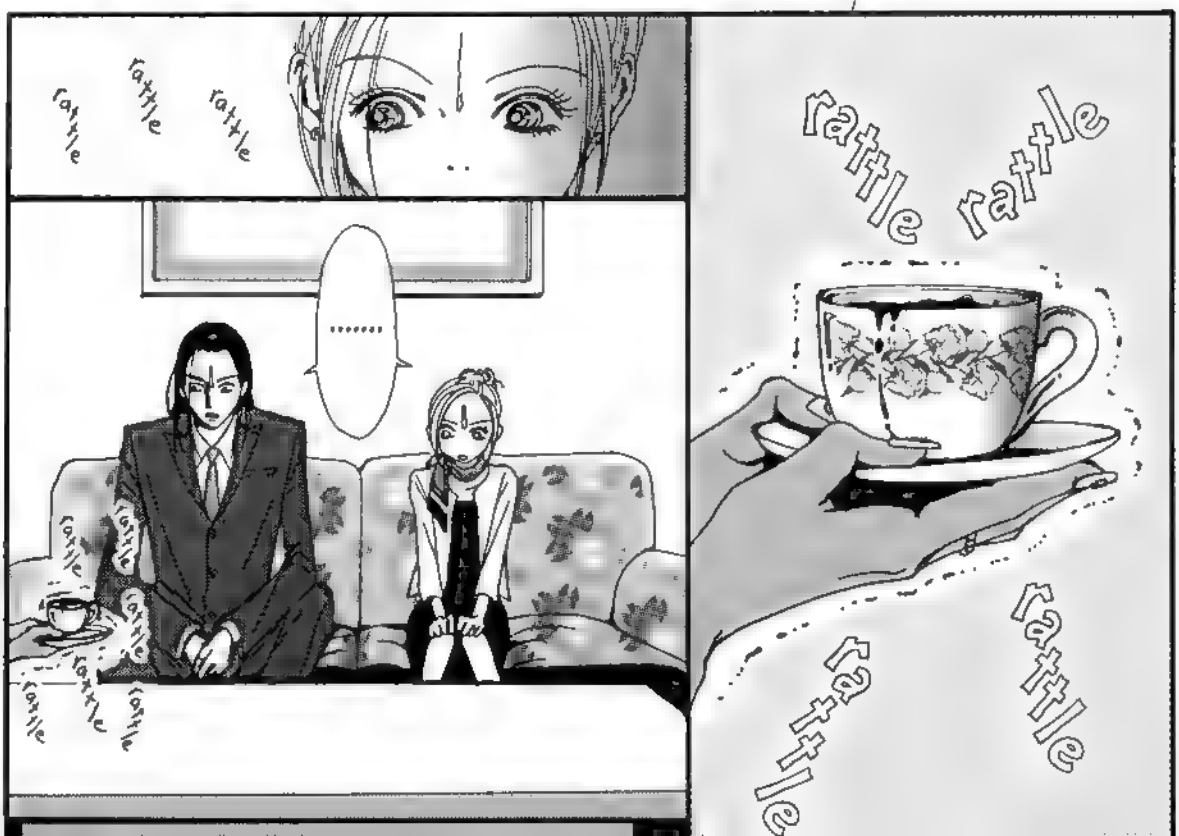
Shin, thanks for your e-mail.

I don't think I've really seen the stars in a long time.

Even if I close my eyes, I can only see a planetarium of neon signs.

I was starting to feel like one of those signs.

Shin, you saved me with your words, once again.
It really means a lot to me.

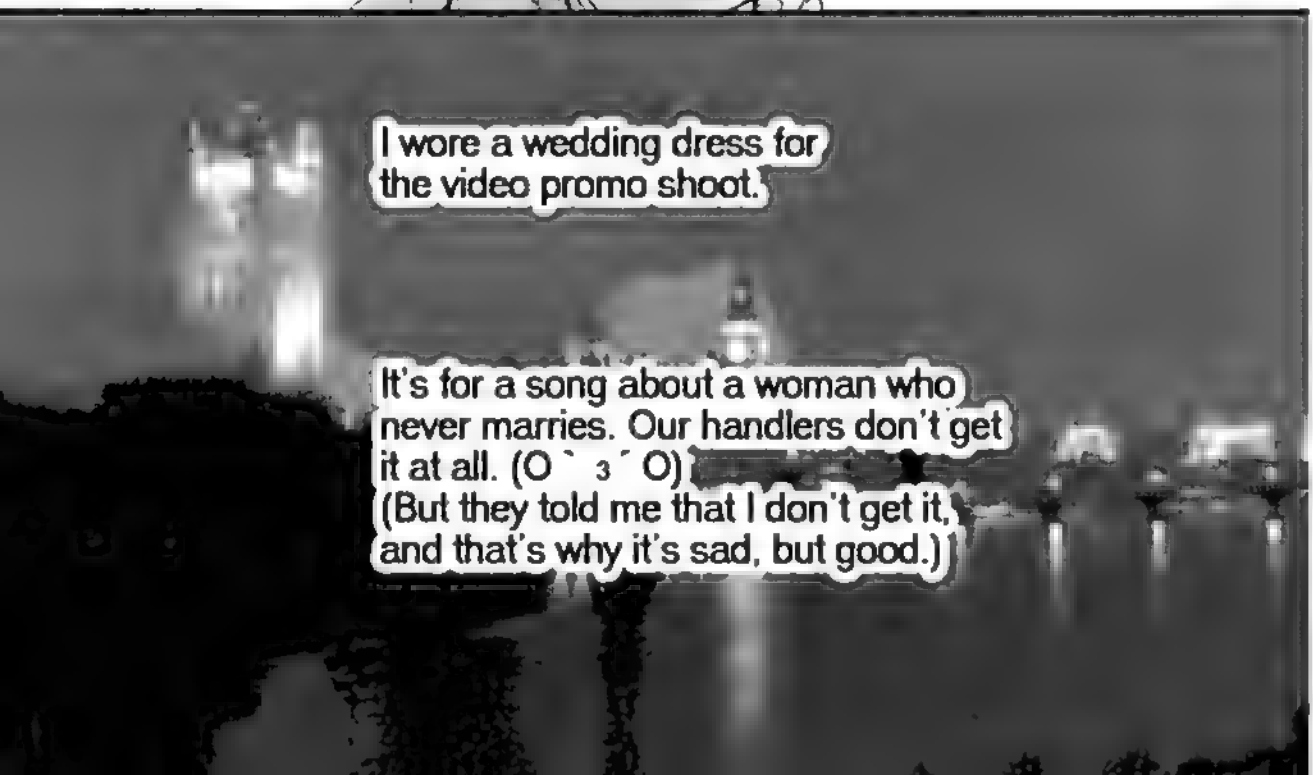


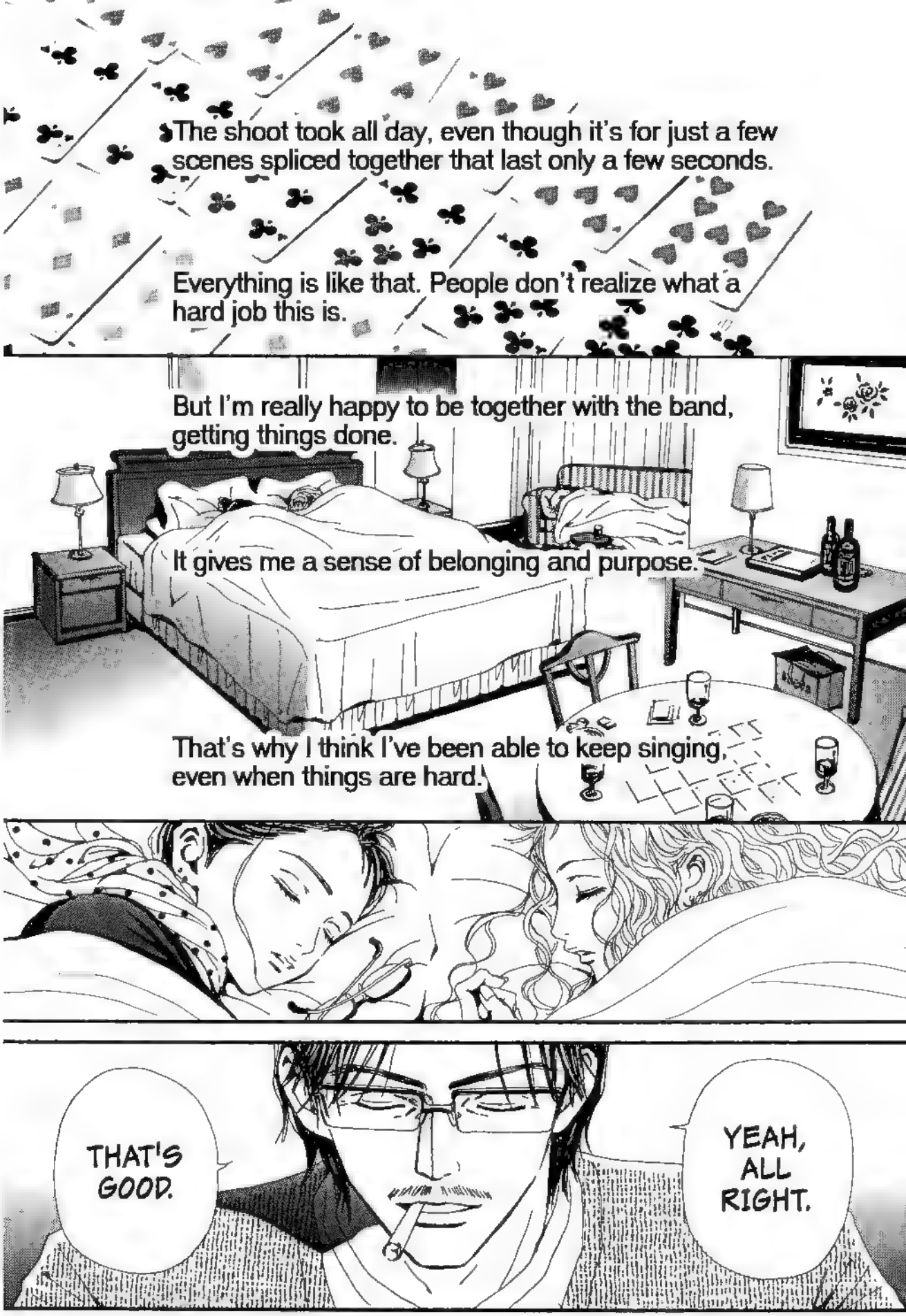
phew
CLANK!
THANK YOU, NAMI! ♡
YOU'RE SO TAN.
IS IT FAKE-N-BAKE?
I'm sorry, I'm just nervous!
I've been a super fan since the beginning!
EEK! ♡
YOU WERE?!
PLEASE DON'T BE...
LIP SERVICE, LIP SERVICE. ♡
I MEAN ... YES! NO!

DADDY!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WEAR A TIE. JUST GO OUT THERE!
THIS TIE'S OBNOX-IOUS...
WHAT-EVER, JUST HURRY UP!
IT'S MY FATHERLY PRIDE!
Sandra
WELL...
HERE THEY ARE!♡
thump thump
heh heh
I'M SORRY...
...FOR MAKING YOU WAIT.
Look digni-fied.
HELLO, I'M TAKUMI ICHINOSE. IT'S SO NICE TO MEET YOU.
JUMP
WHOA, YOU'RE HUGE!
HOW TALL ARE YOU?!

I BROUGHT YOU SOME SOUVENIRS FROM THE U.K.
THE ONLY THING THAT'S REALLY BRITISH IS THE TEA, THOUGH.
I'M SORRY I COULDN'T COME MEET YOU SOONER.
PLOP
glare
WHAT IS IT? WHAT IS IT?
OH DEAR, SO MANY?
HE'S SIX FOOT ONE! ♡
I DIDN'T ASK YOU!
hmph
STOP BABBLING.
YAY! ♡
Thank you, big bro! ♡
I'LL BE YOUR LOYAL SISTER FOR LIFE!
IT'S BEAUTIFUL. ♡
YOUR FATHER NEVER BUYS ME THINGS LIKE THIS.
hmPh
IT'S SO SOFT. ♡
WELL, YOU SEEM TO BE LOADED ...
DO CELEBRITIES REALLY MAKE THAT MUCH MONEY, MR. ICHINOSE?
IT DEPENDS.
YOU GOTTA BE PRETTY POPULAR TO MAKE MONEY.
YOU'RE RIGHT.

MY PLAN IS TO EVENTUALLY WORK BEHIND THE SCENES IN THE MUSIC INDUSTRY.
WHAT ?
YOU HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
I MAY LOOK LIKE A CELEBRITY, BUT I'M ALL BUSINESS.
LOUIS VUITTON! IT'S LIKE A DREAM! IT'S ALL I EVER WANTED!
LET'S MAKE SOME TEA ♥
HE SEEMS PRETTY CRAFTY.
BUT IS IT ENOUGH TO SUPPORT MY DAUGHTER AND HER CHILD FOR LIFE?
BUT THERE'RE SO MANY FACTORS AND VARIABLES INVOLVED THAT AREN'T JUST UP TO ME.
OF COURSE I'D LIKE TO BE IN THIS BAND FOREVER ...
A BAND IS DIFFICULT TO MAINTAIN, EVEN WITHOUT THE ISSUE OF POPULARITY.

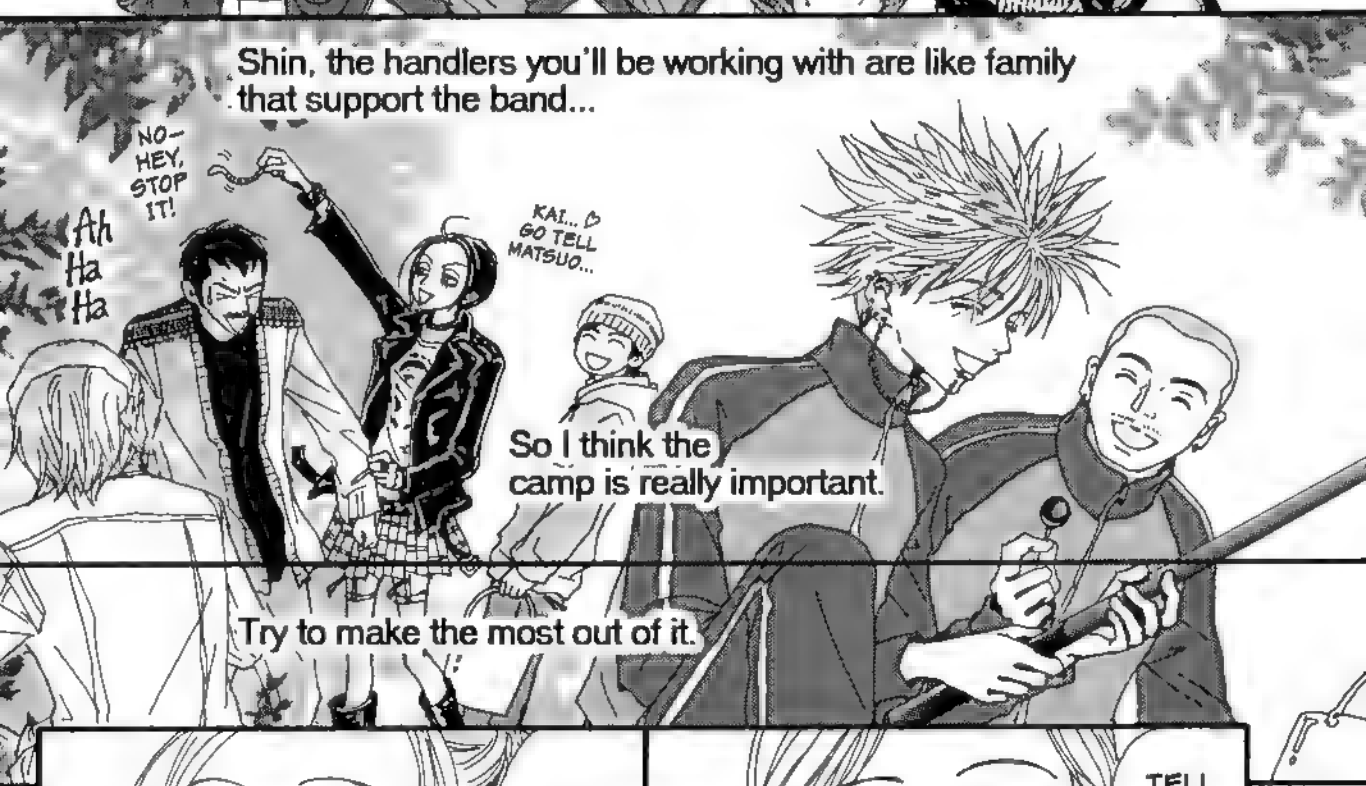

I wore a wedding dress for the video promo shoot.
It's for a song about a woman who never marries. Our handlers don't get it at all. (O ` 3 ´ O)
(But they told me that I don't get it, and that's why it's sad, but good.)


The shoot took all day, even though it's for just a few scenes spliced together that last only a few seconds.
Everything is like that. People don't realize what a hard job this is.
But I'm really happy to be together with the band, getting things done.
It gives me a sense of belonging and purpose.
That's why I think I've been able to keep singing, even when things are hard.
THAT'S GOOD.
YEAH, ALL RIGHT.

That's it?
Was it really that good?
GOOD ENOUGH.
WITH HER CURRENT SINGING ABILITY, IT'S THE SAME NO MATTER HOW MANY TAKES.
SHE JUST LOSES MOMENTUM THE MORE TAKES SHE DOES.
SO FOR NANA, FOR NOW, IT'S A GREAT JOB.
WONDERFUL
WHAD-DYA MEAN ?!
Keep up your vocal training so you don't make a fool of yourself live.
'Cause otherwise even the music mags will pan you.
SHUT UP!
Let me try it one more time!
STOP LAUGHING!
DOH!
I'm your man. ♪
Engineer Atsushi Kai (40)
We can use pitch-shifter to fix the high notes that were flat. ♡
It's all good, Nana.
SO...
BREAK TIME! ♡
THE RECORD-ING'S DONE, SO WHADDYA SAY WE GO FISHING AT THE LAKE?
GOOD IDEA!
YAY! ♡
THAT'S WHY HE CAME OUT HERE!
TO FISH ?!
NOW WE KNOW WHAT YOU'RE REALLY LIKE!
MATSUO!

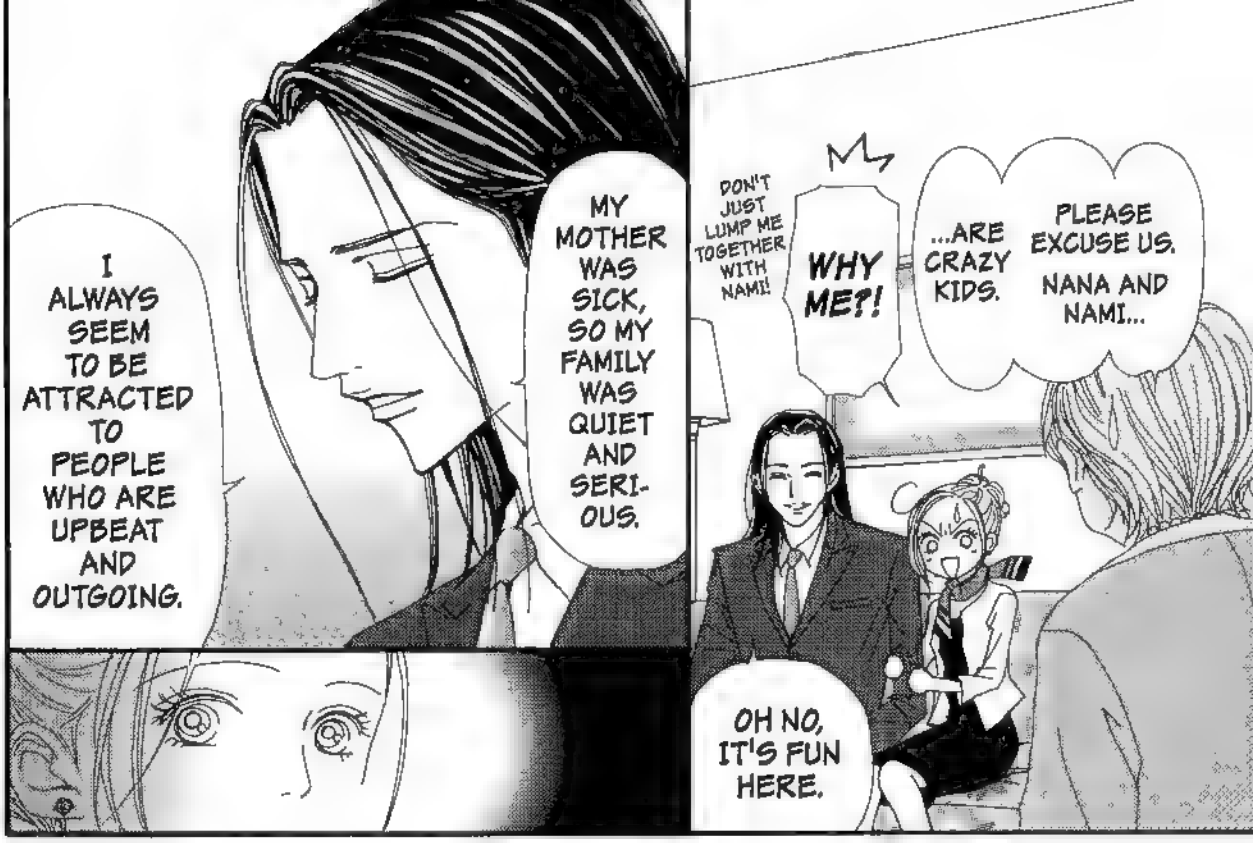
The main reason Gaia combines recording with boot camp...

...is to strengthen the bond between the band and their handlers.


Shin, the handlers you'll be working with are like family that support the band...
NO— HEY, STOP IT!
Ah Ha Ha
KAI... ♡ GO TELL MATSUO...
So I think the camp is really important.
Try to make the most out of it.

#Tsuchinoko are mythical snake-like animals that live underground and enjoy alcohol.

I'M BORED!
LET ME TALK SOMETIMES, TOO!
BUT YOU DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT MY FAMILY.
wiggle
wiggle
YOU'RE SO IMMATURE. IT'S LIKE I HAVE FOUR KIDS. LORD HELP ME!
DADDY!
...
flip
NO ONE'S ASKING YOU.
FOR-GIVE ME.
EX-CUSE ME?
No way!
Back off, girl!
AND YOU TALK WEIRD!
YOU CAN TALK TO ME LIKE THAT, TOO!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!
DON'T YOU WANNA GO SHOW THAT BAG OFF?
OKAY? ♡
C'MON, I'LL TAKE YOU, NAMI.
MEAT?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO GET!
WHAT? NO!
AND FIXIN'S FOR SUKIYAKI.
YES!
GO OUT AND GET US SOME SAKE!
NAMI!
DO YOU LIKE NAMI?!
...
HA HA HA HA HA
PLEASE DON'T GO THERE, ALL RIGHT?


I ALWAYS SEEM TO BE ATTRACTED TO PEOPLE WHO ARE UPBEAT AND OUTGOING.
MY MOTHER WAS SICK, SO MY FAMILY WAS QUIET AND SERI-OUS.
DON'T JUST LUMP ME TOGETHER WITH NAMI!
WHY ME?!
...ARE CRAZY KIDS.
PLEASE EXCUSE US. NANA AND NAMI...
OH NO, IT'S FUN HERE.

SO IT'S KINDA WEIRD...

...BEING AROUND THIS HAPPY FAMILY SCENE.

MY SISTER MARRIED A MAN FROM THE NEIGH-BORHOOD, AND THEY LIVE WITH MY FATHER. THEY HAVE TWO KIDS.
MY MOTHER PASSED AWAY SIX YEARS AGO.
....
IT'S INTERESTING.
SO HOW IS YOUR FAMILY NOW?
'CAUSE FOOLS DON'T CATCH COLDS.
SHE NEVER EVEN GETS A COLD.
I SEE ...
WELL, WE GUARAN-TEE THAT NANA IS AT LEAST HEALTHY.
WHY NOT ?
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
OH NO...
OF COURSE.
WE SHOULD VISIT YOUR MOTHER'S GRAVE, TOO.
WE SHOULD GO PAY THEM A VISIT SOON.
WELL THEN ...

YOU REALLY DON'T HAVE TO.
NO...
BUT WE SHOULD AT LEAST MEET HIM...
THAT MUST BE REALLY HARD.
AN ALCO-HOLIC?
I'M SORRY.
MY FATHER IS AN ALCOHOLIC. HE CAN'T EVEN TALK TO PEOPLE AT THIS POINT.
I DON'T WANT TO INVITE HIM TO OUR WEDDING.
I DON'T WANT HIM TO RUIN IT.
HE DIDN'T GO TO MY SISTER'S WEDDING... OR EVEN MY MOTHER'S FUNERAL.

IF THE FATHER'S BAD, THE BABY WILL GROW UP TO BE BAD, TOO.

I'M THE PERFECT EXAMPLE.

I WISH I'D BEEN BORN AS YOUR CHILD, HACHI.
DADDY...
TALK LIKE A NORMAL PERSON!
WHAT, ARE YOU A TRAVELING SALES-MAN?
PLEASE LOOK THIS OVER.
BY THE WAY, ABOUT THE WEDDING VENUE...
WHAT THE...
flip

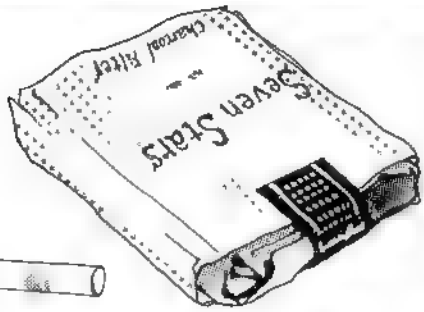
slam
MMM
REN?
knock
AIA

creak
SevenStars
Charcoal Filter
SevenStars

Seven Stars
Push

FLUSH
REN...
DON'T SLEEP HERE. YOU'LL GET SICK.
HA HA
REIRA?
HEY, HEY...
BE A GOOD BOY.
COME ON...
HA HA HA HA
I'M SORRY. I FELL ASLEEP.
.....
NNN
IS HE ALL RIGHT?
DID REN PASS OUT THERE?

Dear Shin,



I'm really bummed that I left...

...the lighter that you kindly forgot...

...back in Japan.

I didn't bring it 'cause I didn't want to lose it or break it.

But I feel anxious if it's not within my reach.

To cherish something is a difficult thing to do.

I'm flying back to Japan on the 27th.

Will you be back in Tokyo then?

I want to look you in the eye and talk to you.

To look deeply at someone else, with no lies,
is to look at yourself as well.

If you look away, you lose.

I don't want to lose.

Reira Serizawa

F Ren

S A Message for Nana

I got back from the UK today. Please call me.

MIKA BOUGHT IT FOR ME AT THE NEWS-STAND.
....
A PORN NOVEL.
SO YOU'RE A BOOK WORM.
WHAT ARE YOU READ-ING, SHIN?
SO HOW DO YOU LIKE IT, SHIN? ♡
Hair and Makeup Artist Mika Morio. Age 37. Married.
...BUT WE CAN'T EVEN GO HOME 'CAUSE OF THE PAPA-RAZZI.
WE'RE ON OUR WAY BACK TO TOKYO...
THERE'S NO POINT IN TEASING HIM.
SHIN WILL ALWAYS ONE-UP YOU, MIKA.
YOU DON'T ?
I DON'T LIKE IT AT ALL.
YOU CAN ONLY TOUCH HIM FROM THE NECK UP!
NOW NOW, MIKA ...

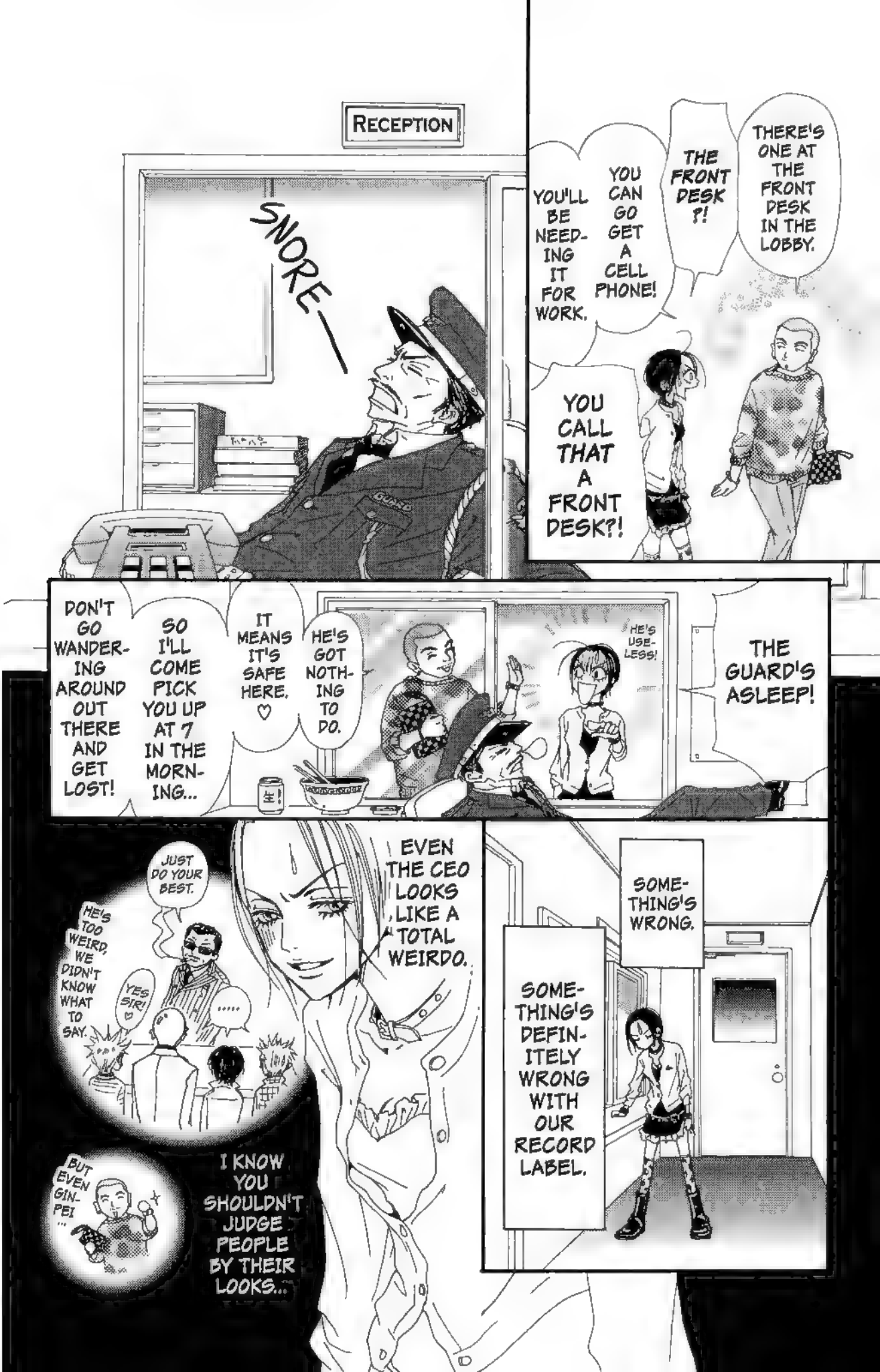
NOW WE'RE BEING THROWN INTO THE AGENCY'S SO-CALLED DORM.
IT'S JUST CALLED "THE DORM."
WHAT ARE YOU LEARN-ING?!
BUT I SURE AM LEARNING THINGS IN HERE.
"THE MARRIED WOMAN NEXT DOOR"?!

...SO THINGS ARE COMFORT-ABLE.
WHAT-EVER.
AS LONG AS I CAN LAY LOW THERE.
YOU'LL EACH HAVE YOUR OWN ROOM, THERE'S NO CURFEW, AND NO YAPPING DORM MOTHER.
THE RESIDENTS ARE ALL PEOPLE IN OUR AGENCY. IT'S JUST A REGULAR APARTMENT BUILDING.
BUT IT HAS GOOD SECUR-ITY AND FACIL-ITIES...

602

FSSSH!
OH—
YOU MIGHT NOT WANT TO OPEN THE CURTAIN MUCH.

THERE'S A LOVE HOTEL NEXT DOOR. ♡
.....
BUT THEY PROBABLY WON'T BE OPENING THEIR CURTAINS TOO OFTEN, ANYWAY.
WHAT'S SO COMFORTABLE ABOUT THIS DIVE?
THERE'S NO SUNLIGHT!
THERE'S A TOILET AND A SHOWER, TOO. ♡
WHERE'S THE BATHTUB?!
YOU'RE SUCH A COMPLAINER.
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?
IF YOU WANT THE GOOD LIFE, YOU BETTER MAKE YOUR WAY TO THE TOP.
STARTING TOMORROW, YOUR SCHEDULE'S BOOKED SOLID...
...SO YOU BETTER WORK IT.
SLAM
WAIT— GINPEI!
WHAT ABOUT A PHONE?


RECEPTION
SNORE—
GUARD
THERE'S ONE AT THE FRONT DESK IN THE LOBBY.
THE FRONT DESK?!
YOU CAN GO GET A CELL PHONE!
YOU'LL BE NEEDING IT FOR WORK.
YOU CALL THAT A FRONT DESK?!
THE GUARD'S ASLEEP!
HE'S USELESS!
HE'S GOT NOTHING TO DO.
IT MEANS IT'S SAFE HERE. ♡
SO I'LL COME PICK YOU UP AT 7 IN THE MORNING...
DON'T GO WANDERING AROUND OUT THERE AND GET LOST!
SOMETHING'S WRONG.
SOMETHING'S DEFINITELY WRONG WITH OUR RECORD LABEL.
EVEN THE CEO LOOKS LIKE A TOTAL WEIRDO.
I KNOW YOU SHOULDN'T JUDGE PEOPLE BY THEIR LOOKS...
JUST DO YOUR BEST.
HE'S TOO WEIRD, WE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY.
YES SIR! ♡
.....
BUT EVEN GINPEI ...

I'm Nana from the Black Stones!
I already introduced myself a while ago!
....
GIRL— WHO ARE YOU?
BUT ANY WAY YOU SLICE IT, HE LOOKS LIKE A YAKUZA.
THEN GO AHEAD.
IT'S FREE
I WANT TO USE THE PHONE.
"OH?"
flick
OH ... WHAT DO YOU WANT?
...WHEN I CALL REN?
BUT WHAT SHOULD I SAY...
LONG PHONE CALLS LEAD TO CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR.
YAWN
.....
I'LL JUST BORROW NOBU'S PHONE.
FEEL FREE TO USE IT, GIRL.
?
CLICK
I DON'T WANT HIM LISTENING IN.
FOR-GET IT.

5
THAT'S WHAT I SHOULD SAY.
I'M HAVING A HARD TIME BREATH-ING.
sigh
IF HE CAN'T GIVE ME HIS ALL, THEN I'D RATHER NOT TALK TO HIM.
I WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE HIM FOR A WHILE.

THAT'S WHY I HATE TOKYO.

IT'S PROBABLY 'CAUSE THE AIR'S POLLUTED.

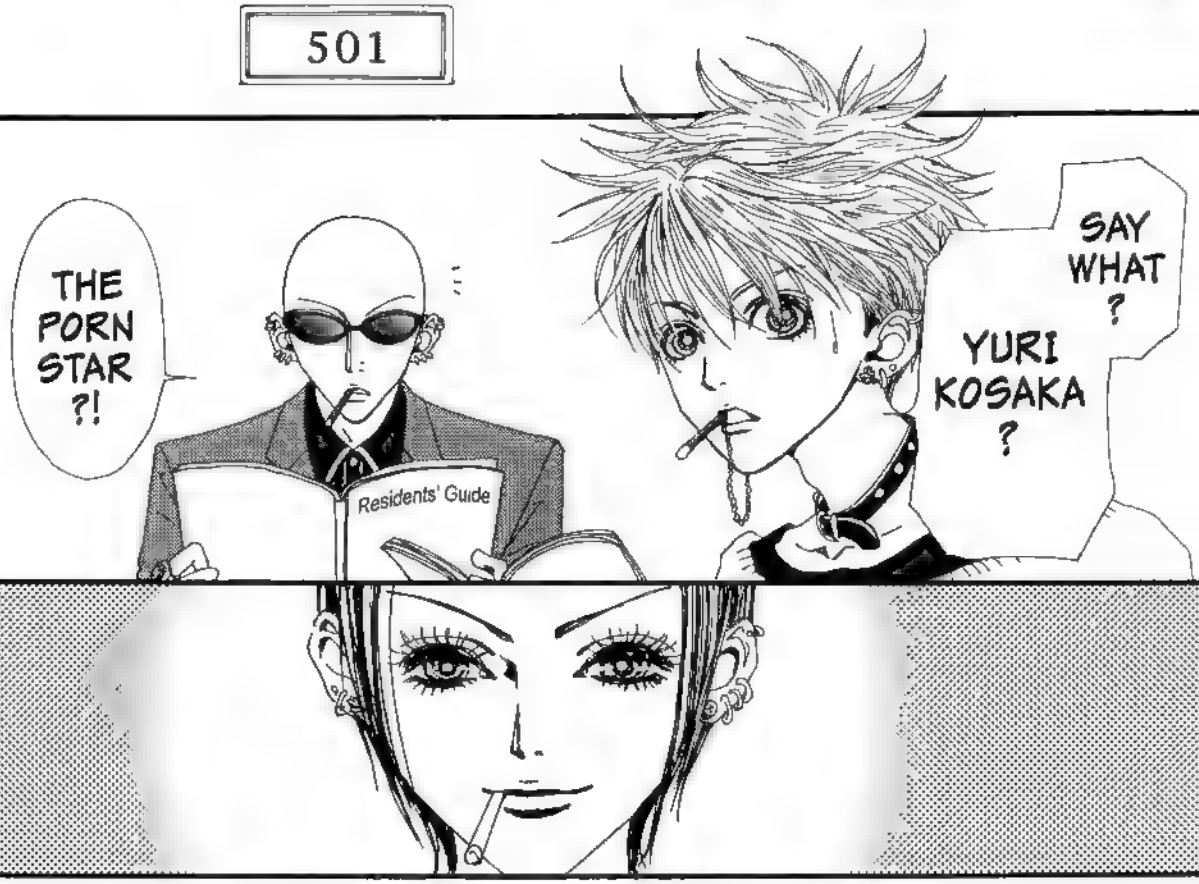
di 5 ng

1502
REALLY?
YEAH, YOU'RE FAMOUS! IN A WAY... ♡
NO NO, NOT LIKE YOU.
WHAT?
YOU KNOW WHO I AM?
'CAUSE YOU'RE FAMOUS. IN A WAY... ♡
THAT'S SO COOL!
HEY, PLEASE COME IN!
WHAT?
BUT...
IT'S COOL! GET IN HERE! ♡
SMACK
WHAT'RE YOU DOING, SHORTY?
GETTIN' SOME?
OH... NO... I'M JUST SAYING HI TO MY NEXT-DOOR NEIGHBOR ...

SHE...
SHE'S BEAUTIFUL!
SHE'S A CELEB-RITY!
....
EEK! IT'S REALLY YOU, NANA!
CAN I HAVE YOUR AUTO-GRAPH?
THUMP THUMP

NANA!

501


THE PORN STAR ?!
Residents' Guide
SAY WHAT ?
YURI KOSAKA ?

.....
Y'ALL SEEM TO KNOW HER WELL! ♡
.....
YOU SURE DO KNOW A LOT, YASU! ♡
WHAT SORT OF AGENCY IS "SHIKAI CORPORATION" ?!
WHY DO THEY HAVE A PORN STAR ON THEIR ROSTER?!
WELL, SHE USED TO BE AN IDOL.
SHE DIDN'T SELL, SO SHE TOOK HER CLOTHES OFF.
I NEVER HEARD OF A CO-ED DORM BEFORE!
WHAT A LAWLESS FLOP HOUSE!
SO GIN SAID THEY CALL IT "THE DORM."
THEY JUST CALL IT THAT.
MAYBE THEY ONLY PUT PEOPLE HERE WHO NEED TO BE HERE.
OR NEED TO HIDE OUT.
YEAH.
YURI'S PROBABLY LOADED, SHE'S BEEN IN SO MANY PORNOS.
SO WHY'S SHE HOLED UP IN A DUMP LIKE THIS?
YURI?!

I don't care! Switch with me!
AS IF SHE'D GO FOR ME!
SHE'S A PROFES-SIONAL!
I'M NOT GOING TO DO ANY-THING!
NOBU ...
...YOU BETTER SWITCH ROOMS WITH ME.
WHY ?
I DON'T WANT TO ENDANGER HER WITH A BIG BAD WOLF LIKE YOU LIVING NEXT DOOR!
THUMP
NOBUO.
WHY ARE YOU BEING SO HARD-CORE?!
NOT THAT I CARE WHICH ROOM I'M IN..
I DON'T CARE IF YOU JACK OFF TO PORNOS...
GO AHEAD AND RELIEVE YOUR FRUST-RATIONS.
.....
I JUST DON'T WANT YOU TO FORGET ABOUT OUR JOINT OPERATION.
OPER-ATION?

"OPERATION WIN BACK HACHI!"
WE VOWED TO FIGHT TOGETHER!
SO YOU CAN'T GET WITH OTHER LADIES!
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I THINK YOU MISUNDERSTOOD...
MISUNDERSTOOD?
YOU WERE HANGING ALL OVER YURI.
NO, NOT ABOUT THAT.
YOU BET I WAS!
SORRY!
I'M NOT FIGHTING TO GET HACHI BACK.
THEY'RE SEPARATE ISSUES.
HACHI AND THE BAND ARE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS.
WHY DO I HAVE TO HELP YOU KEEP HACHI IN YOUR RING?
I'VE TOTALLY GIVEN UP ON HER, FOR REAL...
SO JUST DO WHAT YOU WANT.

THEN WHAT AM I FIGHTING FOR?
BACK OFF, GIRL!
WHAT ?
BUT...
...DO HACHI AND I STAY CONNECTED?
BUT THEN, WHERE AND HOW...
NOBU CAN GO OUT WITH WHOEVER HE WANTS.
HACHI HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT.
NANA ?
WE HAVE TO FIGHT TO GET OUR MUSIC RECOGNIZED IN THE MAINSTREAM.
IT'S A STUPID QUESTION.

AND EVEN IF I DID, HACHI'S NOT THERE.
I CAN'T GO BACK TO THAT PLACE...
HOW DO YOU SAY THIS?
The Married Woman Next Door
HEY, YASU...
...
THANKS, MAN.
"THE LIE."
"ITSU-WARI."

YASU!
beep
HELLO ?
Nobu
?
NANA'S ROOM, NOW!
BANG

AAAH
AAAH
AAAH
AAAH AAAH
SHIN!
CALL AN AMBU-LANCE!
DIAL 911!
WHAT'S THE ADDRESS HERE?
TELL MR. YAMAGISHI, THE GUARD, AND TELL HIM TO CALL!
OKAY!
WE WERE TALKING, THEN SUDDENLY SHE...
...STARTED HYPER-VENTILAT-ING...
LIKE AN ASTHMA ATTACK.

NANA ...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
AN AMBU-LANCE WILL BE HERE SOON.
.....
IT'S OKAY.
AAH
AAH
I'M HERE WITH YOU.
DON'T WORRY...
I'M NOT GOING ANY-WHERE.
AAH
sniff

HUH?
WHAT?
YOU FEEL LIKE YOU'RE GOING TO DIE, BUT YOU DON'T.
I THINK SHE'S HYPERVENT-ILATING.
A LIVING HELL.
HUH?
WHY?
JUST HURRY!
GO FIND ONE!
YOU HAVE A PAPER OR A PLASTIC BAG?
NOBU!
HEY, WAIT!

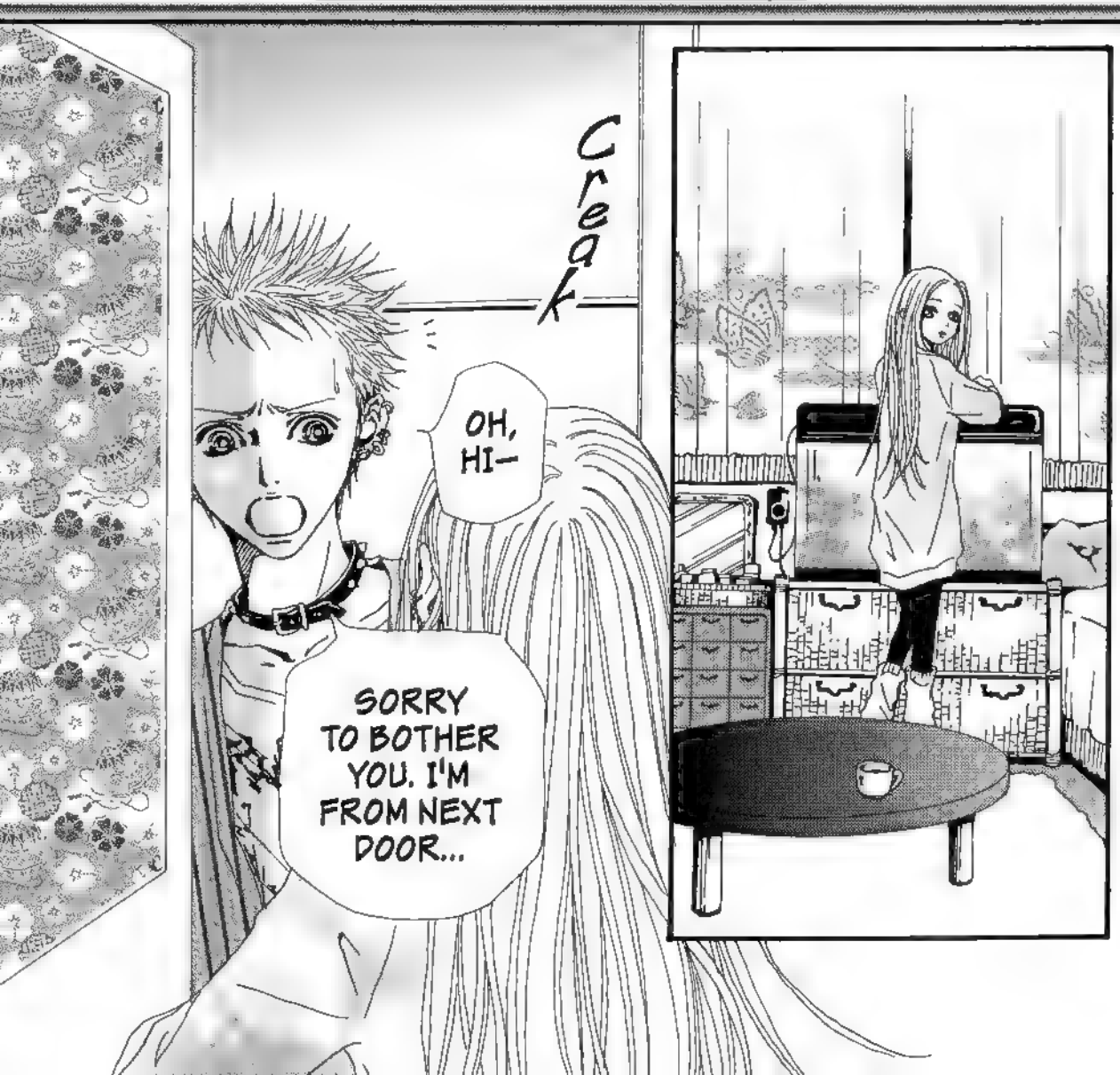
THE HARDER YOU STRUGGLE, THE FURTHER YOU SINK.
PEOPLE ARE SUCH FUTILE CREATURES.
HEY, HACHI...

IF I CAN BE REINCARNATED, I WANT TO BE A FISH.
I'M GOING TO SWIM WITH REN, JUST THE TWO OF US INSIDE A LITTLE FISH BOWL.

IF I DIE NOW...
...I DON'T THINK REN WOULD DIE WITH ME ANY-MORE.
BUT THAT'S ALL RIGHT.
THAT'S THE WAY IT SHOULD BE.
I'M CRAZY FOR THINK-ING THAT'S SAD.

NANA
ナナ
[Chapter 38]

KNOCK 01 KNOCK



SHE LIVES NEXT DOOR?!
DO
DO YOU HAVE A PAPER OR PLASTIC BAG?
YOU DON'T?
THAT'S WHY I'M ASK-ING!
A PAPER BAG IS BETTER.
HMM...
IF YOU DON'T USE THE PLASTIC BAG RIGHT, YOU COULD MESS YOUR-SELF UP.
REALLY?
HOW DO YOU USE IT?
....
WELL, UM...
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME...
YOU SEEM TO KNOW A LOT ABOUT THIS.
CAN A REGULAR PERSON DO THIS?
SURE.
I ALWAYS DO IT ON MY-SELF.

LIE HER ON HER BACK, AND COVER HER NOSE AND MOUTH WITH THE OPENING OF THE PAPER BAG.
LEAVE A LITTLE SPACE AROUND THE BAG.
YOU FEEL LIKE YOU'RE GOING TO DIE, BUT YOU DON'T.
HAVE HER BREATHE SLOWLY LIKE THIS, AND SHE'LL GET BETTER FASTER.
A LIVING HELL.
.....
THANK YOU. I'LL TRY IT OUT.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO FREAK OUT.
SHE'S GOT THAT GUY WHO'S LIKE A TRAN-QUIL-IZER.
I WAS JEALOUS, SO I WAS MEAN TO HER.
TRAN-QUIL-IZER ?
I FINALLY STARTED BREATH-ING AGAIN.
I'M SORRY.

...LIKE I WAS DRAGGED UP FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA.
I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE.
YASU'S CHEST SMELLED SWEET, LIKE BLAST CIGA-RETTES.
SURF
FLIP
YANK
VRROOOOM

BANG
OH— GIN. GOOD EVENIN' TO YA.
WHERE'S NANA?!
ROOM 602.
DID YOU CALL DOCTOR AZUMA ?!
HOW IS SHE ?!
THE SAME THING AS MYU.
JUMP
CALM DOWN.
IT'S PROBABLY JUST HYPER-VENT-ILATION.

YAMAGISHI DIDN'T CALL AN AMBULANCE, HE CALLED THE AGENCY...
...AND I WAS TAKEN TO A DOCTOR THEY KNOW.
GINPEI, WHO RUSHED BACK TO THE APARTMENT, DROVE ME THERE.
BY THE TIME WE GOT TO THE HOSPITAL, WHICH WAS CLOSED ALREADY, I WAS FINE AS USUAL...
...BUT THEY GAVE ME A CHECK-UP JUST IN CASE.
AZUMA HOSPITAL
THAT'S HORRIBLE ...

IT'S USUALLY CALLED HYPERVENT-ILATION.
HYPERPNEIC SYNDROME.
WHAT'S THAT?!
THIS IS CALLED THE PAPER BAG METHOD.
YOUR ATTACK SUBSIDED WHILE YOU WERE BREATH-ING WITH A PAPER BAG BECAUSE YOU INHALED THE CARBON DIOXIDE YOU BREATHED OUT.
IN OTHER WORDS ...
PLEASE JUST SHUT UP AND LISTEN.
CARBON DIOXIDE IN THE BLOOD?
LIKE THE WORD INDICATES, IF YOU BREATHE TOO MUCH TOO QUICKLY, THE AMOUNT OF CARBON DIOXIDE IN THE BLOOD DECREASES AND AN ATTACK OCCURS.

DOCTOR...
I DON'T NEED THE DETAILS.
....
SO WHAT'S MY PROB-LEM?
MY LUNGS ?
I SMOKED TOO MUCH?
NO.
IS IT MY BLOOD?
NO.
I GUESS I SHOULDN'T SMOKE WHILE I'M ON THE PILL.
BUT I HEARD THAT WHEN YOU'RE YOUNG, A LITTLE IS ALL RIGHT.
A LITTLE ?
THAT'S NOT GOOD. YOU COULD GET THROMBOSIS.
I KNOW I KNOW I KNOW— BUT I JUST CAN'T STOP...
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?
...
HE'LL JUST HAVE TO USE CONDOMS INSTEAD.
HUH?!
ME?
NO DOCTOR! YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND!
OH— PARDON ME.
YASU'S MINE!
...
ANYWAY, NOTHING WRONG SHOWED UP IN THE CHECK-UP...
SO DON'T WORRY.
HUH?

NANA ...
I WAS IN SO MUCH PAIN, I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO DIE!
DID YOU REALLY DO A CHECK-UP, YOU QUACK?!
THAT CAN'T BE RIGHT!
PLEASE CALM DOWN.
MS. OSAKI.
HYPER-VENT-ILATION CAN BE CAUSED BY INTENSE EXER-CISE...
BUT IT CAN ALSO OCCUR WHEN YOU'RE NERVOUS OR UPSET.
BUT DOCTOR, WHAT IF SHE'S ALWAYS LIKE THAT?
WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
CALM DOWN.
HOW CAN I GET BETTER ?
WELL, WE HAVE NO IDEA IF ANOTHER ATTACK WILL OCCUR...
SO IT'S BEST NOT TO WORRY ABOUT IT.
BUT I WILL WORRY ABOUT IT.
DOCTOR, I'M A SINGER.
DURING A LIVE SHOW I MOVE AROUND A LOT, I GET REALLY WORKED UP, I GET NERVOUS...
I JUST CAN'T RISK HAVING AN ATTACK ON STAGE!
PLEASE DO SOME-THING.
UH.
BUT THIS IS CAUSED BY STRESS. IT'S OUTSIDE MY FIELD.

IF YOU'RE WORRIED, YOU SHOULD GO SEE A PSYCHIA-TRIST.
IF YOU WANT, I'LL WRITE YOU A REFERRAL.
A PSYCHIA-TRIST?
THANK YOU, DOCTOR.
THANKS FOR ALWAYS TAKING CARE OF US.
COCO

NANA!
NANA!
Ha Ha
SO YOU'RE OKAY!
SNOXS
YOU'RE SUCH A MAMA'S BOY.
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU GUYS WERE HERE.
WHAP
HUH?
WHAT DID THE DOCTOR SAY?
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
THAT I'M TOTALLY NUTS! ♡

IT'S A MESSED UP WORLD WE LIVE IN.
EVERYONE THESE DAYS HAS STRESSFUL LIVES, MORE OR LESS.
THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH THAT.
YOU'RE JUST MORE SENSITIVE THAN OTHER PEOPLE.
YOUR HEAD WON'T BREAK!
YOU'RE A BLOCK-HEAD WHO'S TOTALLY FULL OF PREJU-DICES!
OW!
THAT HURTS!
DON'T HIT ME!
SERI-OUSLY, I'LL DIE!
I'M HAVING A HARD TIME TOLER-ATING MYSELF.
...HATE MYSELF WHEN I'M WEAK LIKE THIS.
BUT I...

Nobu
Message from Nana

VRROOM
beep
WHY DO WE HAVE SO MUCH WORK RIGHT WHEN WE GET BACK?
rattle
WE DIDN'T HAVE TO GO ALL THE WAY TO THE U.K.
IT'S NOT REN'S FAULT.
SORRY, GUYS..
IT'S NOT FAIR ONLY YOU GOT DAYS OFF TAKUMI!
GOING TO THE U.K. WAS NOT IN OUR SCHEDULE.
STOP WHINING.
WE HAVE TO.

DIRTY HANDS ?!
MY LIGHTER RAN OUT OF FLUID.
JUST LET ME USE IT!
IT'S A LIGHTER, RIGHT?
SNATCH
WHAT'RE YOU DOING ?!
GET YOUR DIRTY HANDS OFF THAT!

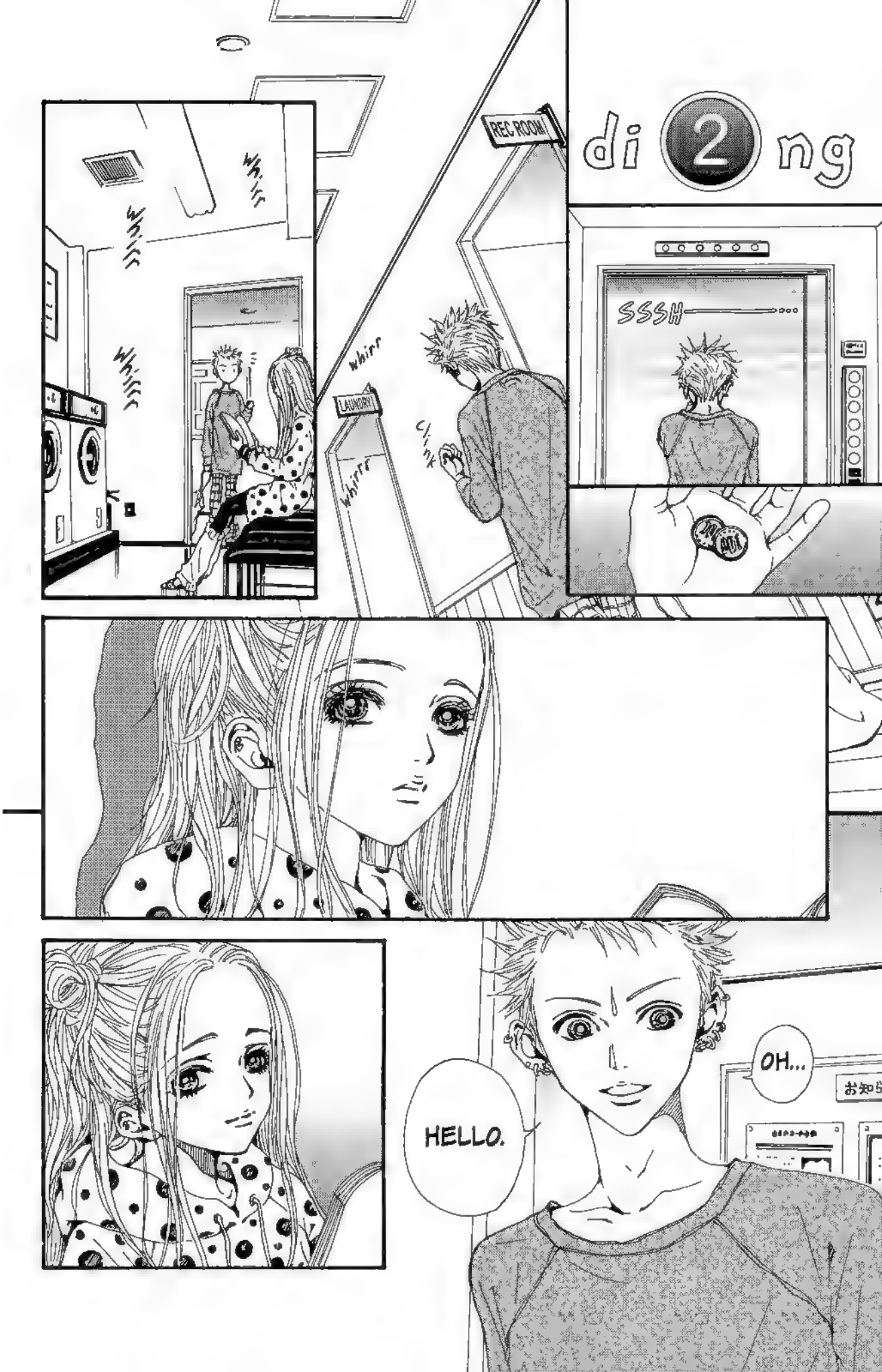
IT'S A COLLECTOR'S ITEM, PRETTY RARE.
REALLY?
OH? SHIN FROM BLAST?
WOW!
IT'S SO HUGE!
THAT THING'S A LIGHTER?
REALLY?!
THEN WHY ARE YOU CARRYING A LIGHTER, WHEN YOU DON'T EVEN SMOKE?!
I'M SO SURE!
IF YOU DO ANYTHING WITH THAT KID, IT'S CRIMINAL!
WELL, I HOPE IT'S NOT SHIN'S.
REALLY?
A FAN GAVE THIS TO ME. I JUST LIKE IT!
....
YOU DON'T REMEMBER?
WHEN YOU SAW SHIN USING IT AT THE AFTER-PARTY, YOU SAID THE SAME THING.
Ring ring♫
GIMME YOUR LIGHTER!
REN!
YOU KEEP 'EM?
MY ROOM'S FULL OF THEM.
I ONLY GET STUFFED ANIMALS.
NO FAIR! I'M JEALOUS.
F Shin
S Welcome Back

I'm locked up in a cage called a dorm. I'm thinking about a way to see you without anyone finding out, but I can't think of anything. I want to see you soon.
I THINK IT WAS THE SAME WITH REN.
BEING BUSY WAS JUST AN EXCUSE.
BUT I WAS SCARED THAT IF I HEARD REN'S VOICE, I'D HAVE ANOTHER ATTACK.
ALL RIGHT, HERE'S THE SCHEDULE FOR TODAY. ♡
IN THE MORNING WE'RE SHOOTING SENZAI*.
AT A STUDIO IN HARA-JUKU.
SENZAI?
PROMO PHOTOS.
OH.
*Senzai means promo material AND dish soap.

AT 9 YOU HAVE PRACTICE AT THE KAGURAZAKA STUDIO.
...AT GAIA HQ.
THEN AT 7 WE HAVE A MEETING WITH THE EVENTS COMPANY ABOUT THE OUTDOOR SHOWS...
MATSUO WILL DECIDE HOW LONG THAT GOES.
I KNOW YOU'RE "REBELS," BUT THAT'S JUST YOUR IMAGE.
PLEASE BE NICE TO ALL THESE PEOPLE IN THE BIZ. WE WANT TO LEAVE A GOOD TASTE IN THEIR MOUTHS.
WE'LL HANG AROUND AND CHAT WITH THEM AS WELL.
IN THE AFTERNOON YOU HAVE THREE INTERVIEWS WITH MUSIC MAGS.
ALSO, IF YOU'RE ASKED ABOUT YOUR PRIVATE LIFE IN INTERVIEWS, DON'T ANSWER.
....
NO PROBLEM AT ALL.
NANA'S STILL RECOVERING!
NO, THAT'S ENOUGH!
....
I COULD STILL SQUEEZE IN A THING OR TWO. ♡
THAT'S NOT TOO BAD.
WELL, THAT'S ABOUT IT.
THE BUSIER I WAS, THE BETTER I FELT.
YAY! ♡ I'M STARVING!
WE CAN HAVE BREAKFAST IN THE CAR.
THEN LET'S HIT IT.

NICE TO MEET YOU
HELLO.
THIS IS MASARU, YOUR STYLIST.
WHEN WORK WAS FULFILLING, I FELT GOOD, SO I DIDN'T THINK I NEEDED TO GO TO A PSYCHIATRIST.
I WON'T CHANGE YOUR IMAGE MUCH.
YOU ALREADY HAVE A DISTINCT STYLE.
TOTALLY.
LET'S MAKE BONDAGE POPULAR!
phew
THERE WERE SO MANY PEOPLE INVOLVED IN BLAST'S RECORD RELEASE.
SO MANY THAT I COULDN'T REMEMBER EVERYONE'S NAMES.
I WASN'T GOOD AT PERSONAL PR, BUT IT WASN'T PAINFUL.
ROCK MAGAZINE
NOTHING ABOUT YOUR PRIVATE LIVES?
AT LEAST TELL ME WHAT YOUR HOBBIES ARE.
MAH-JONG.
THAT WAS QUICK.
Ah Ha Ha
SIR?
I'M HUNGRY, I CAN'T HIT THE HIGH NOTES!
DON'T BLAME YOUR STOMACH!
ONE MORE TIME!
HEY, IT'S THE SLY FOX.
HOW'RE YOU?
WHAT SINISTER SCHEME YOU GOT UP YOUR SLEEVE THIS TIME?
...
NANA.
Ha ha
GOOD.
LOOK OVER HERE.
HOLD THAT POSE.
I MADE YOU LUNCH TODAY.
YAY!
I FELT THAT I COULD LISTEN TO HER TALK ABOUT TAKUMI AND THE BABY.
I FELT THAT IF I SAW HACHI NOW, I COULD TALK TO HER AND SMILE.
DON'T TELL ANYONE!
WILL SHE BE ABLE TO GRADUATE?
IF YOU TELL HER, SHE'LL FLUNK.
SHE HAS MIDTERMS SOON, RIGHT?
BUT IT'S ON A WEEKDAY.
ARE YOU GOING TO TELL MISATO ABOUT THE SHOW?

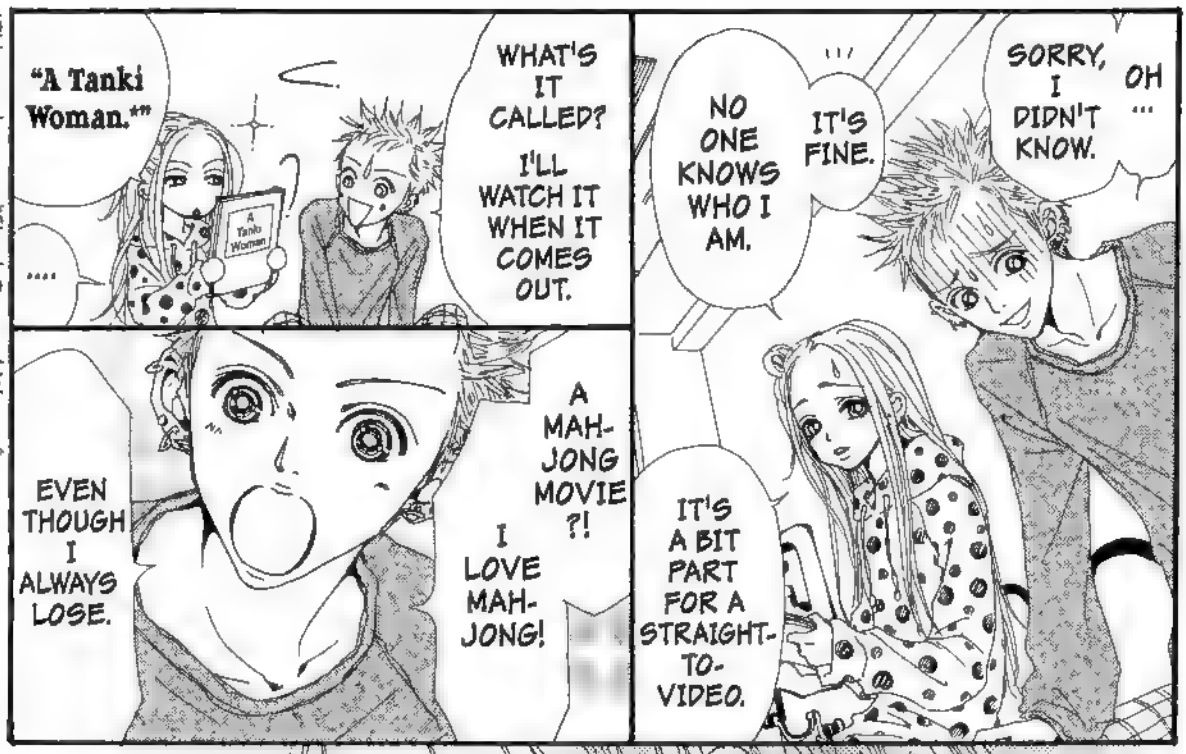
CRASH!
BUT THERE WAS ABSO-LUTELY NO TIME FOR THAT.
AND I CAN'T GO OUT NAKED.
BUT I HAVE TO DO LAUNDRY TODAY.
UGH. I'M BEAT.
BUT YOUR FOLKS WILL BE PROUD AND FORGIVE YOU WHEN BLAST MAKES IT. PARENTS ARE LIKE THAT.
SO JUST MAKE SURE THAT HAPPENS!
BUT ALL MY STUFF WON'T FIT HERE.
MAYBE I COULD SEND IT OVER TO MY PARENTS' PLACE.
AND MY LAUNDRY TOO!
I WISH SOME-ONE WOULD DO IT FOR ME.
I HAVE TO MOVE OUT OF MY APART-MENT, OTHER-WISE I'M JUST WASTING MONEY.
flomp flomp
NOT TO MENTION MOM.
BUT I WONDER IF DAD'S STILL MAD AT ME.


di 2 ng
REC ROOM
LAUNDRY
whirr
whirr
clink
SSSH
OH...
HELLO.

clink
clunk
whirrr
whoosh
whirrr
whirrr
whirrr
whirrr
whirrr
UM ...
CAN I ASK YOU SOME-THING?
WHAT ?
WELL, UM, ABOUT THOSE ATTACKS...
.....
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT, I WON'T ASK.
YOU PROB-ABLY DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT. I'M SORRY.
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
WHAT IS IT?

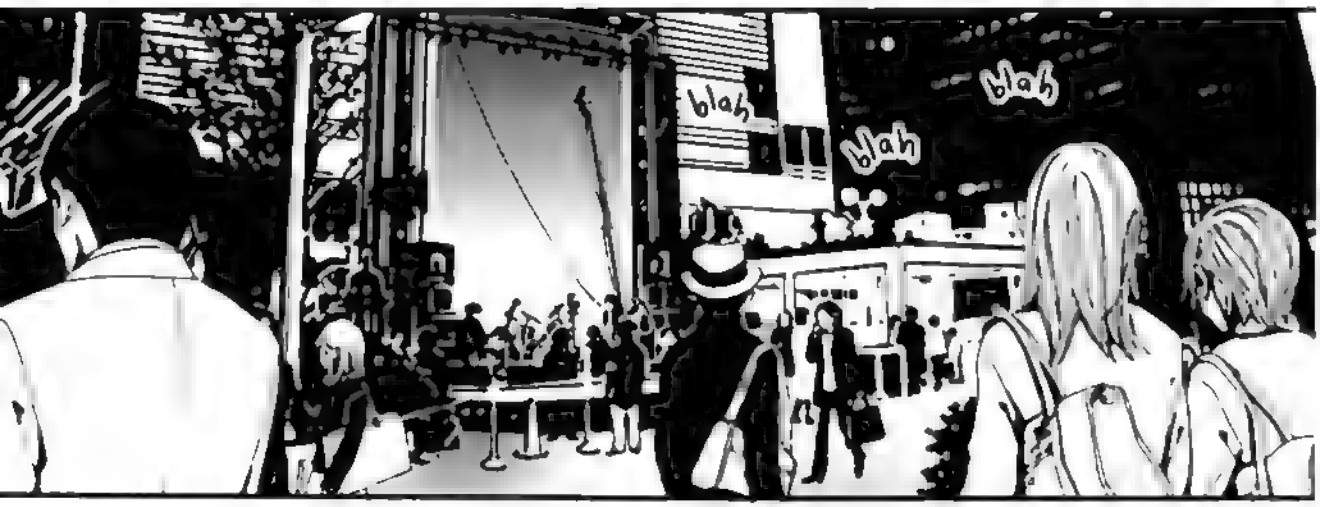
...IF EVERYONE AROUND YOU IS SO CALM WHEN YOU'RE SUFFERING, WOULDN'T THAT MAKE YOU FEEL LONELY?
I CAN SEE HOW THAT MAKES SENSE, AND THE DOCTOR SAID SO.
THAT MIGHT BE THE RIGHT THING TO DO, BUT...
...THAT EVEN IF NANA HAS ANOTHER ATTACK, IF PEOPLE AROUND HER GET FREAKED OUT, SHE'LL GET EVEN WORSE, SO STAY CALM, LIKE NOTHING'S WRONG.
OUR MANAGER TOLD US...
WHETHER PEOPLE ARE CALM OR ANXIOUS, AS LONG AS I CAN FEEL COMPASSION, THEN I DON'T FEEL LONELY.
SHE'S LAUGHING?
I DON'T THINK I CAN DO THAT.
I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN STAY CALM.
HEH

whirrr
whirrr
whirrr
whirrr
A Tanki Woman
...BUT THAT'S HOW I FEEL.
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE ...
I GUESS I ASKED SOMETHING A NORMAL PERSON SHOULD KNOW.
WHY DO I NEED TO ASK ABOUT THINGS LIKE THIS? o o
MAYBE I SHOULD JUST START OVER IN LIFE.
flip
HEY. IS THAT A SCRIPT FOR A PLAY?
YEAH.
YOU'RE AN ACTRESS ?
SORT OF.



*This can also mean "Short-tempered Woman."

WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
...WONDER HOW MANY PEOPLE IN THIS TOWN KNOW MY NAME.
NOW I...


blah
blah
blah

I DON'T KNOW.
MUST BE SOME SINGER NO ONE KNOWS.
IS SOME-ONE PLAY-ING?
HEY, WHAT'S THAT FOR?
beep
WANNA GO?
ANYWAYS, YUJI AND THOSE GUYS INVITED US TO GO TO KARAOKE.
IT'S IMPOS-SIBLE.
I NEVER GET TICKETS TO THEIR SHOWS.
I WISH SOMEONE LIKE TRAPNEST WOULD PLAY.
beep
COOL! ♡
ARE THEY PAYING?
MR. KAWA-NO?
WE'RE ALL SET.
OKAY, TIME TO ROCK.
GO CRAZY AND WOW THEM.

blah
blah
YEAH, WE'RE GOING THERE NOW.
HELLO, YUJI?
SLAM
Oooh
REALLY ?!
IT'S NANA!
Ai Yazawa

Black Stones

THIS SUCKS.
GET LOST!
NOT NANA!
YOU DON'T KNOW?
blah
WHAT? WHO IS IT?
EEK!
WHAT? REALLY?
NO WAY!
blah
HEY! IT'S BLAST, IT'S BLAST!
WELL, REN'S PRACTICALLY A HOUSEHOLD NAME.
I GUESS MORE PEOPLE KNOW US THAN I'D THOUGHT.
I DON'T KNOW WHO THE PLANTS ARE.
WOOO!
I DON'T HAVE TO INTRODUCE MYSELF...
... THANKS TO THE PAPARAZZI.

7PM, SHIN-JUKU.
Black Stones
OCTO-BER 10, 2001.

...BROUGHT ME TO THIS PLACE NOW.
... AND FATE ...
Black Stones
LUCK ...

THANK THEM FOR THIS, EVERY-ONE!
WA

Yasu
10/10/01 08:12
Message from Nana
I'll be waiting in front
of Shinjuku Alta at 7.
Nana

HEY, HACHI...
IT'S KIND OF FAR BACK...
...BUT IT'S THE BEST, SAFEST SEAT.
CAN YOUR BABY...
...HEAR US PLAY, TOO?

2001.10.31
TRUST
TRAPNEST

Good morning, Japan!
It's Friday, October 26th...
...And it's time for Music J!
Today's first music news is that...
...in just five days, Trapnest will drop their new single...
"TRUST."
I WANT TO WEAR THAT DRESS REIRA'S WEARING!

.....
THAT'S THE DRESS I WANT TO WEAR!
IT'S SO BEAUTI-FUL! ♡
THE WEDDING DRESS SHE'S WEARING IN THAT VIDEO CLIP!
MAYBE I CAN HAVE THE SAME ONE MADE? ♡
WHAT?
MAYBE I COULD CHANGE MY DRESS THREE TIMES DURING THE RECEPTION.
BUT I LIKE THIS DRESS BETTER.
Snap
IF YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND NOW, THE TAILOR WILL CRY.
YOU ALREADY ORDERED YOUR DRESS.
.....
SO DON'T.
IT WOULDN'T LOOK GOOD ON YOU.
BESIDES, IT'S REIRA WHO'S BEAUTIFUL, NOT THE DRESS.
THAT'S TOO MUCH.
AND WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YOU "KNEW IT"?
WE DO NOT!
AWAAH
I knew it! You and Reira have something going on!

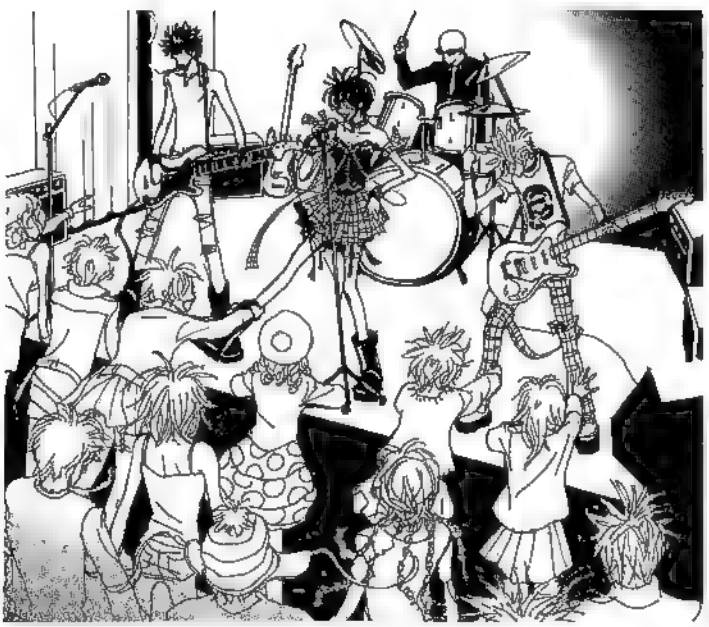
REC ROOM
GIMME SOME!
OH... CALCIUM!
hee hee
GOOD MORN-ING. ♡
OH! MYU.
MILK
HEY, NOBU ...
WHY DO YOU KEEP CALLING ME MYU?
THAT'S NOT MY NAME.
IT'S MIU.
WHERE DID YOU GET THAT FROM?
YOUR NAME'S HARD TO PRO-NOUNCE.
BUT IT'S COOL. IT'S A CUTE NICK-NAME.
EVERYONE SAYS THAT, AND NO ONE CALLS ME BY MY REAL NAME.
I LIKE MY NAME.
NO ONE DOES?
THEN I'LL BE THE ONLY ONE TO CALL YOU MIU. ♡
MILK

WE'RE GOING TO BE ON A MUSIC SHOW TONIGHT, SO WE HAVE TO PRACTICE ALL DAY.
NO.
10
2001 OCT
YOU GOT TODAY OFF?
.....
THAT'S ROUGH.
YOU GOT HOME AT DAWN, RIGHT?
IT'D BE BETTER IF HE WAS FOOLING AROUND WITH YURI.
WHAT WAS THE POINT OF SWITCHING ROOMS?
NOBU'S GETTING COZY WITH THE GIRL NEXT DOOR.
WE'VE BEEN LIVING IN THIS DORM FOR A MONTH NOW.
REC ROOM
NO, I WAS ALREADY UP.
OH SORRY, DID I WAKE YOU UP?
WHY DOES EVERYONE JUST SWING FROM ONE PERSON TO ANOTHER?
BUT IT JUST SUCKS...
BUT FORCING UNREQUITED LOVE ON NOBU IS CRUEL.
I HAVE NO RIGHT TO DO THAT.
di 5 ng
OH NO, MY BREATH!
EVERY-ONE'S A FOOL!
HACHI'S LIKE THAT, TOO.
UNTIL RECENTLY, YOU KEPT SAYING "HACHI HACHI HACHI."

click
slide
501
MORN-ING!
WHERE'RE YOU GOING?
TO GET YOUR HAIR CUT?
AS IF..
NO!
I HAVE TO MEET WITH MR. KAWANO, SO I'M LEAVING EARLY.
YOU LOOK PALE. ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I'M COOL, MAN.
I HAD NO INTENTION OF GETTING BACK WITH REN, 'CAUSE I FELT YASU'S EXTRA-ORDINARY LOVE.
BUT I WAS SWEPT AWAY, AND I'M ONE OF THOSE FOOLS, TOO.
I CAN'T KEEP YASU IN UNRE-QUITED LOVE LIMBO EITHER.
SO WHY AM I LIVING NEXT DOOR?
click
I'M BEING TOO CRUEL.
TODAY IS AN IMPOR-TANT DAY.
I'LL USE THE PAPER BAG JUST IN CASE.
← Yuri's room

I WAS ABLE TO SURVIVE WITHOUT REN SOME-HOW...
BUT IF YASU WASN'T THERE FOR ME, I'D BE COM-PLETELY LOST.
I HAVE TO SETTLE THINGS.
THE NEXT TIME I SEE REN, I WON'T BE SWEPT AWAY.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE WE PLAYED ON A LIVE MUSIC SHOW!
THE FANS MUST BE PSYCHED, AND THE RATINGS SHOULD BE GOOD.
OF COURSE IT'LL BE GOOD...
...THROWING US IN THE PIT TOGETHER.
EVEN IF THEY PICK A FIGHT, I WON'T FIGHT BACK.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
NO VIO-LENCE HERE, TAKUMI.
NO NO NO!
OKAY, OPEN YOUR MOUTH...
AAAH
BLAST'S GOING TO BE ON THE SHOW TOO!
WHY DON'T YOU GUYS READ THE PRO-GRAM?!

HEY, HACHI...
I THOUGHT THAT LIFE WAS AN UPHILL BATTLE NO MATTER WHAT...
BUT GOING WITH THE FLOW ISN'T SUCH A BAD THING TO DO...
...AS LONG AS YOU'RE MOVING FORWARD.



...WAS TO MAKE IT BIG WITH THE BAND AND BECOME A HOUSEHOLD NAME ALL OVER JAPAN.
MY DREAM...
EVEN IF THE PERSON I LOVED MOST WOULDN'T SAY MY NAME ANYMORE.
BLACK STONES
2001.10.31

Black
NANA
ナナ
[Chapter 39]

BLACK STONES
YOU HAVE HALF AN HOUR.
IF YOU'RE HUNGRY, YOU BETTER EAT YOUR TAKEOUT NOW.
PRAC-TICE STARTS AT NOON AND, WE GET ONE HOUR.
flip
flip
11°00′ ~12°00′
Ⓜ7 TRAPNEST
12°00′
Ⓜ1 BLACK STONES
17°00′ ~18°00′
Sound chec
18°00′ ~19°00′
Run-through
19°00′ ~19°45′
Stand-by for on air
19°52′45″ ? 19°53′00
Short promotional plug
20°00′ ?
Show time

HEY...
WHAT'S THIS "RUN-THROUGH" AT 6?
THE ONLY THING ON THE AGENDA TODAY IS THIS MUSIC SHOW.
IT'S YOUR FIRST TIME PLAYING LIVE ON TV.
TRY TO REALLY PREPARE AND FOCUS.
... YOU PLAY YOUR SET ... LIKE YOU'RE PLAYING YOUR REAL SHOW.
flip
REALLY ?
THERE'S A LOT OF TIME BETWEEN PRACTICE AND RUN-THROUGH. WHAT DO WE DO THEN?
DID YOU HEAR WHAT I SAID?
FOCUS ... FOCUS ...
CAN I...
BUT I WANNA GO OUT AND DO SOMETHING DURING THE BREAK.
WHAT ?
...GO SLEEP IN THE CAR DURING THE BREAK?
I'M ABOUT TO PASS OUT FROM NO SLEEP.
I CAN'T SLEEP IN HERE.

OKAY, THAT'S GOOD— CUT!
YASU!
GOOD JOB!

SO YOU'RE OBNOXIOUS ON THE CLOCK, TOO.
HOW YOU DOING? ALL RIGHT?
tap tap tap
YAY!♫
YOU TRAITOR!
heh heh heh heh heh
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
GIRLS DON'T FORGIVE OR FORGET.
SCARY, DUDE.
...
whisk
I DON'T WANT HIM GETTING HIGH BEFORE THE BROAD-CAST.
CHEW HIM OUT.
GOOD TIMING.
ABOUT?
I WANT TO TALK...
HEY REN, WAIT—
.....

SKAM
REN ...
...ARE YOU STRUNG OUT AGAIN?
NO ... I'M FINE.
YOUR EYES LOOK WEIRD.
JUST A LITTLE ...
A LITTLE WHAT?
POT.
IT'S NATURAL, MAN. IT ISN'T ADDICTING.
FOR YOU IT IS!
I BET YOU'RE DOING HARDER STUFF, TOO!
YOU BETTER GET IT TOGETHER, DUDE!
SORRY...
I'LL NEVER DO IT AGAIN...

YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY. I'M NOT STEALING NANA FROM YOU.
REN ...
BUT YOU LOOK DOWN ON ME, AND IT PISSES ME OFF.
YOU'VE ALWAYS GIVEN ME WHAT-EVER I WANTED.
WHAT-EVER.
FLING
AND NANA'S THE SAME WAY, TOO!
YOU'RE SO UN-STABLE, I CAN'T WATCH IT.
THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU'RE NOT WITH NANA.

DON'T FORCE IT ANYMORE, REN.
YOU'RE DIFFERENT THAN ME OR TAKUMI.
STOP BEING SO PRACTICAL. DO WHAT YOU WANT.
I DON'T THINK SO.
BUT IF YOU KEEP AVOIDING HER, WHO KNOWS WHAT'LL HAPPEN.
WHAT'S SHE ON?
SHE'S FREAK-ING OUT TOO?
UPPERS?
SHE'S SO DAMAGED FROM HER MOTHER ABANDONING HER.
I SAW IT HAPPEN WHEN HACHI SPLIT.
sniff
I SHOULDN'T HAVE ENCOURAGED YOU TO MOVE TO TOKYO.
YOU'RE NOT CUT OUT FOR THE MUSIC BIZ.
IF YOU KEEP FORCING IT, YOU WON'T LAST LONG.

"TRUST" IS A GOOD SONG, NO MATTER HOW YOU CUT IT.
PLAYING ON THIS SHOW WILL BE A BIG PUSH...
...AND THE FIRST RELEASE OF THE CD'LL SELL OUT IN A FLASH.
slam
beep
THEY'RE SO HOT IN THE NEWS, WON'T THEY SELL A MILLION COPIES?
I DON'T KNOW ...
SO WHAT'S THE INITIAL RUN FOR BLAST?
EVEN IF THEY MISS THEIR MARK, I'M NOT TAKING THE HEAT.
I THINK THE SALES DEPARTMENT OVERDID IT WITH 800,000 COPIES OF A SINGLE.
YOU THINK ?
YOU REALLY THINK SO?
GOODY!
COOL!
IT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS, BUT IT SENDS SHIVERS DOWN MY SPINE.
INITIAL RUN, A MILLION COPIES.
IF I WERE GAIA, I'D JUST GO FOR IT.
WE'LL HIT NO. 1 ON THE CHARTS FOR SURE.
BUT EVEN GAIA WON'T SPRING FOR 800,000 COPIES OF A SINGLE FOR A NEW BAND WITH NO TRACK RECORD.

IF THERE'S A PILE OF CDS FROM A NEW BAND THAT MAKES IT TO THE TOP OF THE CHARTS, EVERYONE WILL BUY IT JUST OUT OF CURIOSITY ...
...FOR A LITTLE WHILE.
PEOPLE BUY WHAT'S SELLING NOW.
BUT THAT'S WHY THEY SHOULD DO IT.
THEY'VE INVESTED SO MUCH ALREADY. THEY HAVE TO RECOUP THAT INVESTMENT.
IF THEY PRODUCE EVEN MORE COPIES THAN WE DO, AND HIT NO. 1 ON THE CHARTS THE FIRST WEEK, THE MEDIA CIRCUS WILL GET EVEN CRAZIER.
THEY'VE ALREADY SPENT A COUPLE HUNDRED MILLION YEN ON PROMOTION.
BUT IF IT TANKS, THEY'LL LOSE SO MUCH MONEY.
SHIVERS DOWN YOUR SPINE?

ALL RIGHT, THAT'S GOOD.
WHY, THANK YOU!

GIN, CAN I SEE THE CAR KEYS?
HEY GIN ...
CAN I GO OUT UNTIL THE RUN-THROUGH BEGINS?
YOU SEEM PRETTY ANTSY.
YOU GOT A LADY TO GO SEE?
I DON'T HAVE A GIRL-FRIEND.
WOMEN ARE EVIL.
SHIN, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
POOR THING...
IT'S COOL ...
I'D PROBABLY SLEEP BETTER IN THE CAR.
GIN, WHY ARE YOU SO MUCH NICER TO SHIN THAN YOU ARE TO ME?
YOU WANT TO JUST CRASH FOR A WHILE IN AN EMPTY PRACTICE ROOM?
DON'T COME WAKE ME UP UNTIL IT'S TIME...
STAGGER
HE'S YOUNG, BUT HE'S GOT NO STRENGTH OR ENERGY.
I HAVE TO MAKE HIM QUIT SMOKING.
JUST 'CAUSE YOU GOT TOO MUCH ENERGY!
I'M ABOUT TO KEEL OVER, TOO.
WHAT ABOUT POOR ME?
NANA.
YOU SHOULD GO TRY TO SLEEP IN ONE OF THE PRACTICE ROOMS.
YEAH ...
I HAVE MY OWN ROOM, SO MAYBE I CAN CHILL OUT AND TAKE A NAP.
YOU WANNA SLEEP WITH ME?
C'MON, MAN.
ENOUGH ALREADY!
...
WHAT'S NANA DOING?
SHE'S GONNA TAKE A NAP IN HER ROOM.
WHY DO GIRLS GET THEIR OWN ROOMS?
'CAUSE THEY'RE EVIL?

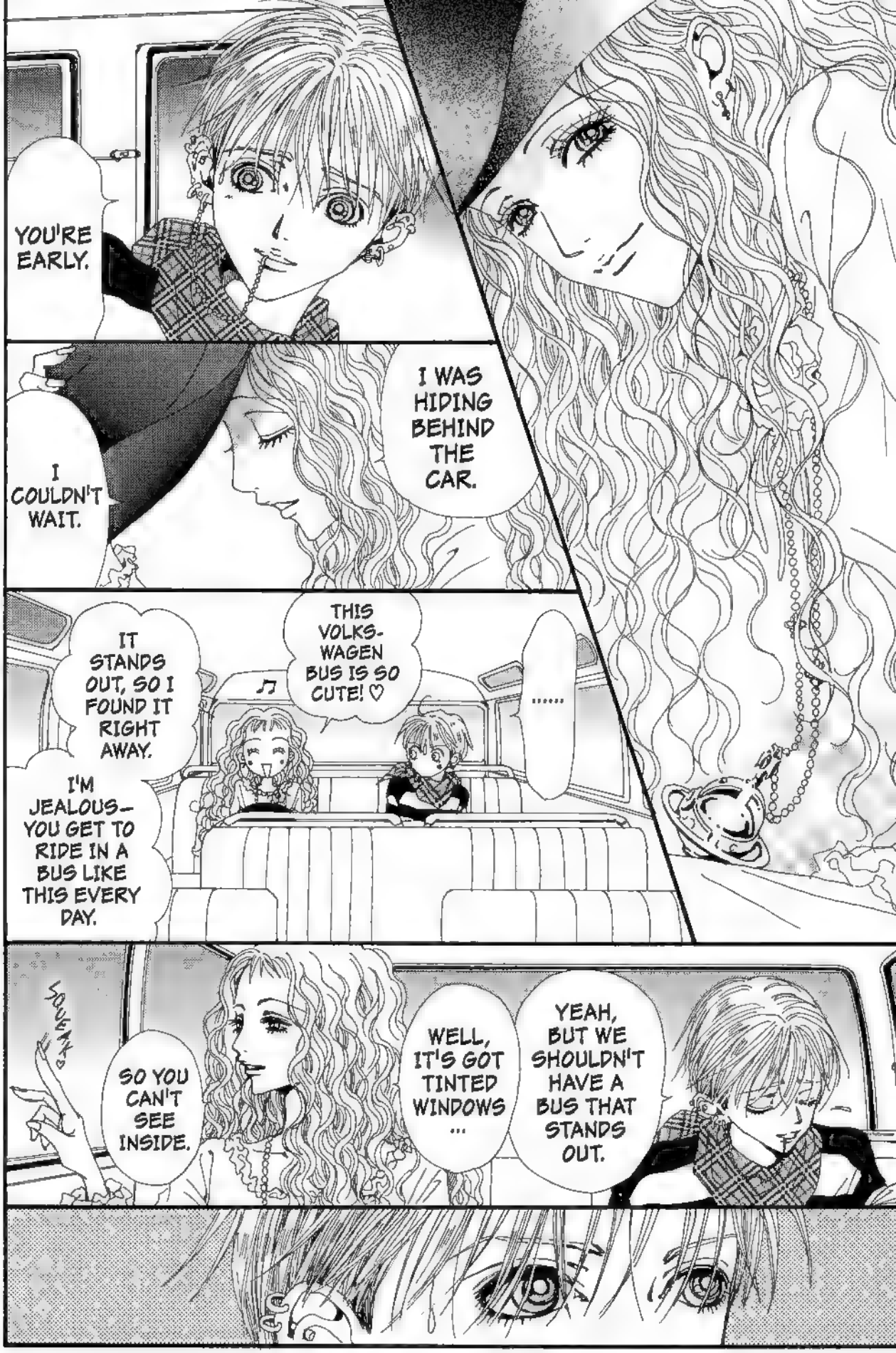
DOES HE REALLY JUST LOVE ME LIKE A SISTER?
HE'S LIKE A BUDDHIST MONK WHO'S REACHED THE STATE OF ENLIGHTENMENT.
HOW CAN YASU BE SO PURE AND PERFECT ALL THE TIME?
WE HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING YET!
WHAT DOES HE MEAN "ENOUGH ALREADY"?
I CAN'T IMAGINE IT.
DOES HE JACK OFF TO YURI?
BUT MAYBE IT'S SOMETHING I SHOULDN'T TRY TO IMAGINE!
I CAN SEE NOBU DOING IT...
HE MUST GET HORNY, TOO.
HAPPIEST REIRA
BUT YASU'S A GUY.
NOT THAT I CARE.
I'D ACTUALLY BE RELIEVED.
click
BLACK STONES
NANA
...IF I DIDN'T SEE HIM FOR A MONTH, HE'D SLEEP WITH SOME GIRL FOR SURE.
WITH REN...

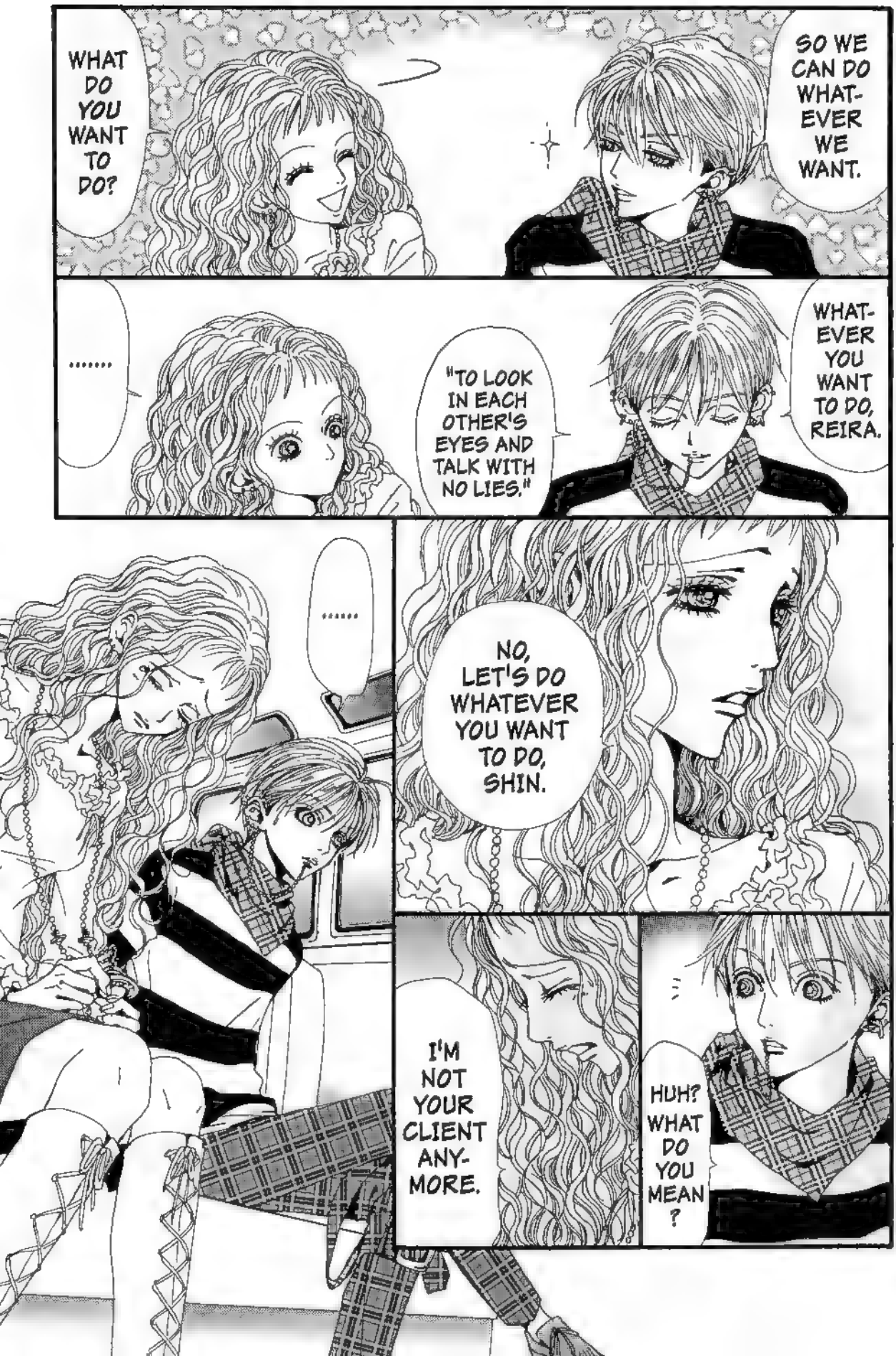
REN
GRETSCH
WELCOME HOME! ♡
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN HERE?!
HOUSE SIT-TING.
THERE MIGHT BE SOME SKETCHY GUY WHO'D JUST WALK RIGHT IN.
IT'S NOT SAFE TO LEAVE THINGS IN HERE WITH THE DOOR UNLOCKED.
SLAM
click

I LEFT YOU ALONE, TOO...
NO, I'M NOT MAD.
...HAVE TO TALK.
WE...
I'M SORRY I LEFT YOU ALONE FOR A WHOLE MONTH.
DON'T BE MAD.
GET OUT OF HERE!
WHAT'RE YOU GOING TO DO IF SOMEONE SEES YOU?!
OH YEAH?!
REN MUST BE THINKING THE SAME THING.
IF WE CAN'T ALWAYS BE TOGETHER, IT'D BE EASIER TO JUST END IT.
...GOING OUT LIKE A HIP LOVE DRAMA IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR US.
SEEING EACH OTHER EVERY NOW AND THEN, TALKING ABOUT EACH OTHER, HOLDING EACH OTHER...
DO YOU HAVE SOME TIME?
THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO TALK ABOUT.

I PREPARED MYSELF FOR THIS, BUT I'M SCARED.
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
click
flip
PLOP
beep

Layla
10/26 12:01
Re: Are you free?
I have an interview at 3, but I'm free for two hours. Let's meet after practice.
PUFF
PUFF
SIGH
beep
SQUEAK
click
CREAK
SLAM

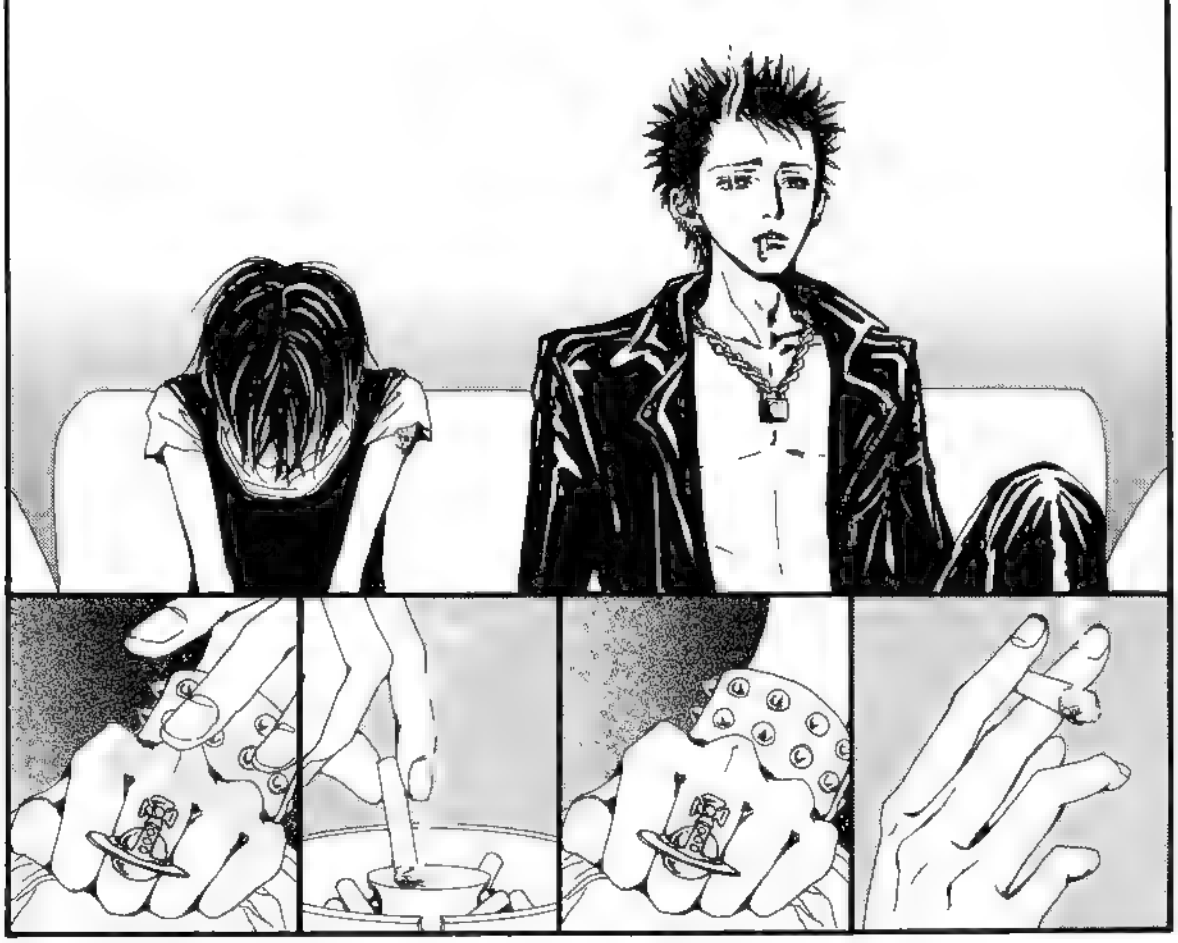

YOU'RE EARLY.
I WAS HIDING BEHIND THE CAR.
I COULDN'T WAIT.
THIS VOLKS-WAGEN BUS IS SO CUTE! ♡
♫
.....
IT STANDS OUT, SO I FOUND IT RIGHT AWAY.
I'M JEALOUS— YOU GET TO RIDE IN A BUS LIKE THIS EVERY DAY.
SOUEAK
SO YOU CAN'T SEE INSIDE.
WELL, IT'S GOT TINTED WINDOWS ...
YEAH, BUT WE SHOULDN'T HAVE A BUS THAT STANDS OUT.


WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?
SO WE CAN DO WHAT-EVER WE WANT.
.....
"TO LOOK IN EACH OTHER'S EYES AND TALK WITH NO LIES."
WHAT-EVER YOU WANT TO DO, REIRA.
.....
NO, LET'S DO WHATEVER YOU WANT TO DO, SHIN.
I'M NOT YOUR CLIENT ANY-MORE.
HUH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

Ah Ha Ha Ha!
YEAH, BUT WHAT A GUY WANTS TO DO IS PRETTY MUCH THE SAME THING WE'VE ALREADY BEEN DOING!
DOING SOMETHING AS A FAVOR OR A SERVICE IS DIFFERENT THAN HAVING SOMETHING WILLINGLY DONE TO YOU.
I'LL LISTEN TO WHATEVER YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT.
SO IT'S ALL GOOD.
tap

10
C'MON, SIT DOWN.
PLUNK
NOT OVER THERE, HERE.
pat
I'M FINE RIGHT HERE.
IT'S NOT LIKE THIS TALK WILL BE CONDUCIVE TO MAKING OUT, RIGHT?
WELL ...
THAT'S UP TO YOU.

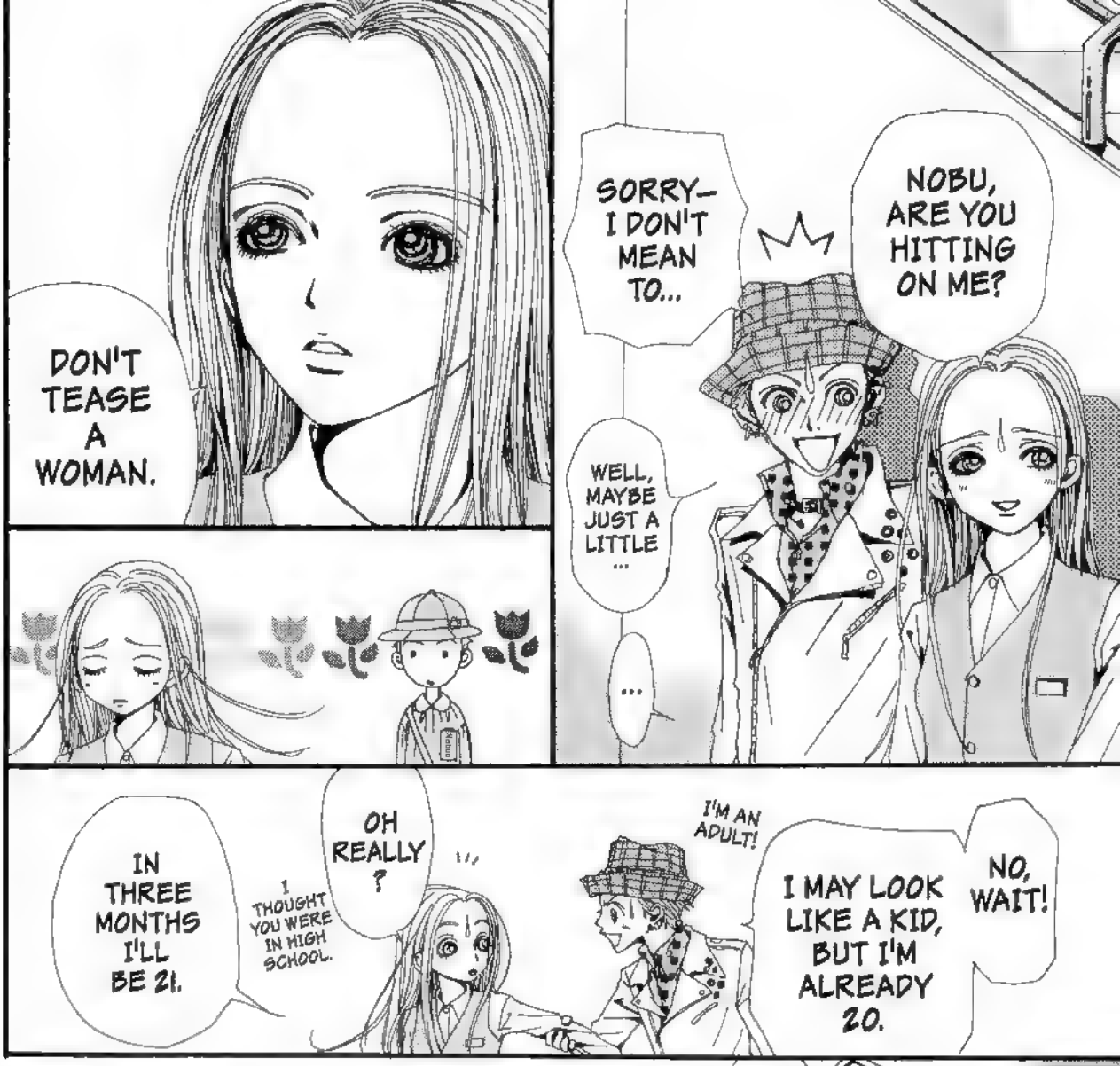
REN'S LOOKING KINDA SCRAWNY.
IS HE NOT TAKING CARE OF HIM-SELF?
WHAT?
tap
pop
scoot



NANA...
WHAT IS IT?!
JUST TELL ME NOW!
BEFORE I SUFFO-CATE AND DIE!

MARRY
ME.

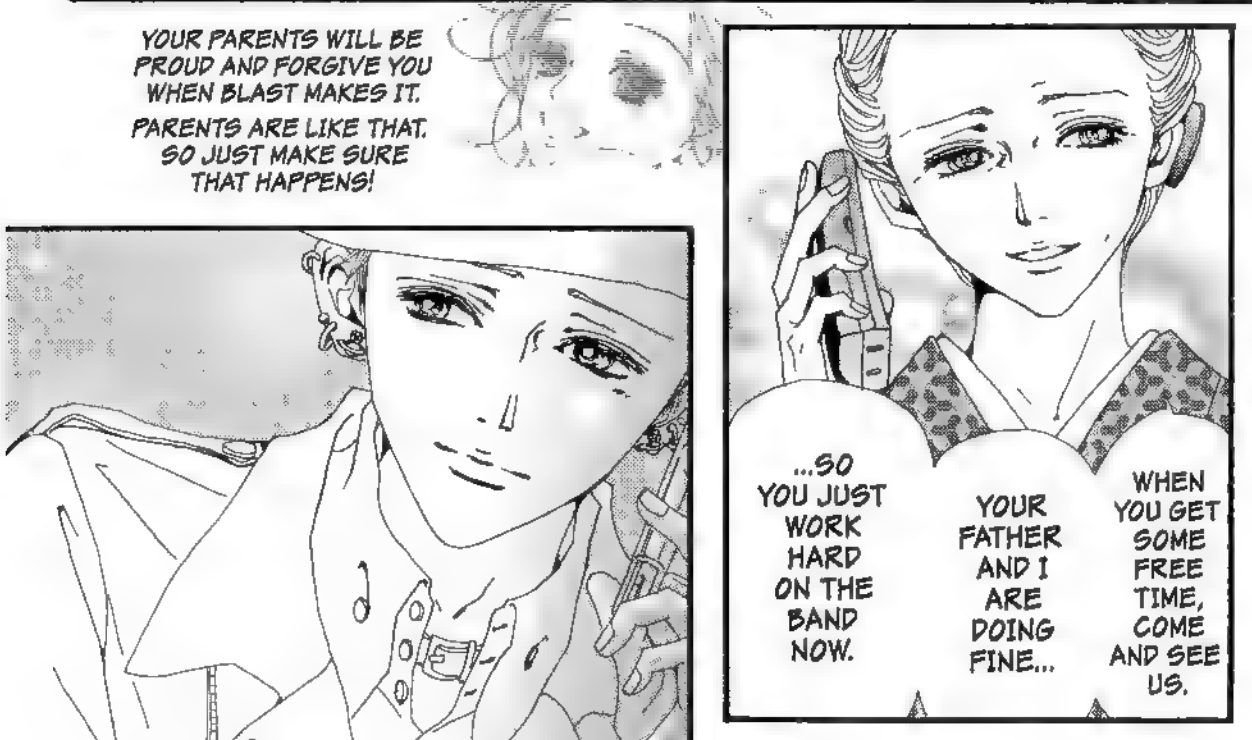
LET'S CHECK IT OUT.
fwip fwip
WHO IS IT?
THEY'RE SHOOTING SOMETHING.
NOBU?
I HAVE SOME FREE TIME, SO I THOUGHT I'D WATCH YOU ACTING.
I'M JUST AN EXTRA.
I'M LOVIN' THE BANK TELLER OUTFIT. IT MAKES YOU LOOK MATURE. ♡
ARE YOU INCOGNITO? YOU STICK OUT LIKE A SORE THUMB.
DON'T YOU HAVE BAND PRACTICE?


DON'T TEASE A WOMAN.
SORRY— I DON'T MEAN TO...
NOBU, ARE YOU HITTING ON ME?
WELL, MAYBE JUST A LITTLE ...
...
IN THREE MONTHS I'LL BE 21.
I THOUGHT YOU WERE IN HIGH SCHOOL.
OH REALLY ?
I'M AN ADULT!
I MAY LOOK LIKE A KID, BUT I'M ALREADY 20.
NO, WAIT!

BUT IF WE WERE IN SCHOOL WE'D ONLY BE ONE GRADE APART.
I WAS SURPRISED WHEN I SAW YOUR AGENCY PROFILE.
YOU LOOK LIKE A TEENAGER, BUT YOU'RE 22.
YOU'RE A VIRGO, RIGHT, MIU? SEPTEMBER 12TH, BLOOD TYPE A.
MY BLOOD'S TYPE A, TOO! ♡
THAT'S JUST MY OFFICIAL PROFILE.
....
THEN HOW OLD ARE YOU REALLY?
THAT'S WHY YOU'RE SO SOCIAL.
SO YOU'RE AN AQUARIUS.
THE 23RD.
IN JANUARY? WHAT DAY?
11, 12...
YEAH. ♡
ALL THE GUYS IN MY BAND ARE AQUARIUS.
BUT OUR PERSONALITIES ARE TOTALLY DIFFERENT.
THERE MUST BE SOMETHING, THOUGH.

27.
SORRY...
DON'T DIE OF SHOCK OR ANY-THING!
SLAM
YEAH ...
I HAVE TO GET BACK TO WORK.
I'M USED TO IT.
WHAT-EVER.
crunch
flip
ring~
.....
EVEN WITHOUT THE AGE DIFFERENCE, SHE THINKS SHE CAN'T DEPEND ON ME.
WHY WOULD A WOMAN SEVEN YEARS OLDER HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH ME?
WELL, THERE GOES THAT.
Vrrooom
OH MAN..
I'M GETTING DEPRESSED AGAIN
WHAT SHOULD I DO?

HELLO, NOBUO?
I READ THAT YOU'RE APPEARING ON A MUSIC PROGRAM TONIGHT.
WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME ABOUT THINGS LIKE THAT?
YOU LITTLE BRAT.
YOU SHOULD MENTION THE TERASHIMA INN ON TV!♡
THE BEAUTIFUL PROPRIETRESS AWAITS HER CUSTOMERS!♡
I WISH I COULD.
OH...
I'M SORRY
BUT I KNEW YOU'D SEE IT IN THE NEWSPAPER...
YOUR FATHER'S BEEN BRAGGING ABOUT IT TO ALL THE GUESTS.
IT'S EMBARRASSING.
REALLY?
Ha Ha!


...SO YOU JUST WORK HARD ON THE BAND NOW.
YOUR FATHER AND I ARE DOING FINE...
WHEN YOU GET SOME FREE TIME, COME AND SEE US.
YOUR PARENTS WILL BE PROUD AND FORGIVE YOU WHEN BLAST MAKES IT.
PARENTS ARE LIKE THAT. SO JUST MAKE SURE THAT HAPPENS!

I WILL ...
THANK YOU.
I'LL DO MY BEST.
WHEN I WAS A CHILD...
...I THOUGHT NO ONE WOULD EVER LOVE ME.

SO THE WINTER WHEN I WAS SIXTEEN, WHEN I FIRST HAD SEX WITH REN...
...IT WAS LIKE AN INCREDIBLE DREAM. IT DIDN'T FEEL REAL.
SHIN...
NEXT WEEK'S MY BIRTH-DAY...
CONGRAT-ULATIONS.
IT'S NOTHING TO BE HAPPY ABOUT.
I'LL BE 23.

MY BIRTHDAY'S NEXT WEEK, TOO. I'LL BE 16.
SEVEN, ACTUALLY.
I HATE IT! IS IT CRIMINAL?
BUT I'LL BE EIGHT YEARS OLDER THAN YOU.
IT MAKES ME FEEL OLD...
Ha Ha Ha
WHATEVER, YOU'RE STILL YOUNG.
NO WAY!
NOVEMBER 1ST. ♡ TOTAL SCORPIO, BLOOD TYPE AB.
HUH? WHAT DAY?
REALLY ?
SUARY.
WE'RE EXACTLY THE SAME...
AND YOU STILL DON'T BELIEVE IN FATE?
THE RED THREAD.

I SURE DO BELIEVE IT NOW...
I THOUGHT HE WAS THE ONE.
IT'S A MIRACLE TO ME THAT THE ONE I LOVE LOVES ME, TOO.

NANA ...
WILL YOU?
SIGH
.....
AGAIN?
YOU'RE SUCH A PERV!
NO, NOT THAT. I MEAN, WILL YOU MARRY ME?
I'M SO SURE.
NO WAY.
IF YOU WON'T, I'LL DIE.
THEN GO DIE BY YOUR-SELF..

WHEN I DIE, I'LL TAKE YOU WITH ME.
THEN JUST KILL ME...

HE HALF-KILLED ME, AND I WENT TO HEAVEN WITH HIM.
I'M A PERVERT, TOO.

FLICK

SHUT UP, BALDY!
SHUT IT!
WELL, DON'T YOU LOOK BETTER, NANA.
'CAUSE YOU HAVE NO GUTS, I HAD SEX WITH REN AGAIN...
NO, NANA'S FREAK-OUTS ARE USUALLY IRRA-TIONAL.
WHAT'RE YOU SO MAD ABOUT?
sigh
?
ARE YOU ON THE RAG?
WHAT'D I DO?
WERE YOU ABLE TO GET ANY SLEEP?
WHY AM I SUCH A MASO-CHIST?
I WILL NEVER MARRY HIM.
I REALLY LOST CONSCIOUS-NESS.
I REALLY ALMOST DIED.
AND THAT FOOL WENT TOO FAR THIS TIME.

.....
!!
I THINK IT'S THE MAKE-UP, NO?
MIKA'S GOT SKILLS! ♡
NO, IT'S ALL PHERO-MONES.
THAT'S REN'S SKILLS! ♡
WELL THAT'S BOLD, DOING IT IN A PRACTICE ROOM!
WELL, THAT'S GOOD.
I LOST.
NO...
I SAW REN COMING OUT OF NANA'S ROOM. ♡
WHAT'S GOOD, BALDY ?!
NANA.
HE JUST BROKE INTO MY ROOM...
WE'RE NOT JUST "ANY COUPLE" EITHER.
WE ARE NOT LOVEY-DOVEY!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
THE STAFF ALL KNOW THAT YOU TWO ARE LOVEY-DOVEY LIKE ANY COUPLE.

EVEN IF REN ACTS SLEAZY, HE'S STILL THE SAME AS WHEN HE WAS A KID...
...SO TRY TO BE AT LEAST A LITTLE NICE TO HIM.
PLEASE.
OH...

IT'S NOT 'CAUSE YASU'S A PRUDE OR 'CAUSE HE JUST THINKS OF ME AS HIS KID SISTER.
YASU♡

IT'S 'CAUSE I'M REN'S GIRL-FRIEND.
OH, YOU JUST WANTED TO SEE ME, RIGHT? ♡
AND USED ME AS BAIT.
YOU DID THIS ON PUR-POSE...
Ha Ha
IN A LOT OF WAYS.
BUT UNEX-PECTED ...
THIS IS LIKE A CLASS REUNION! ♡
OKAY, NOW I GET IT— WHAT OUR RELATIONSHIPS TO EACH OTHER ARE REALLY ABOUT.

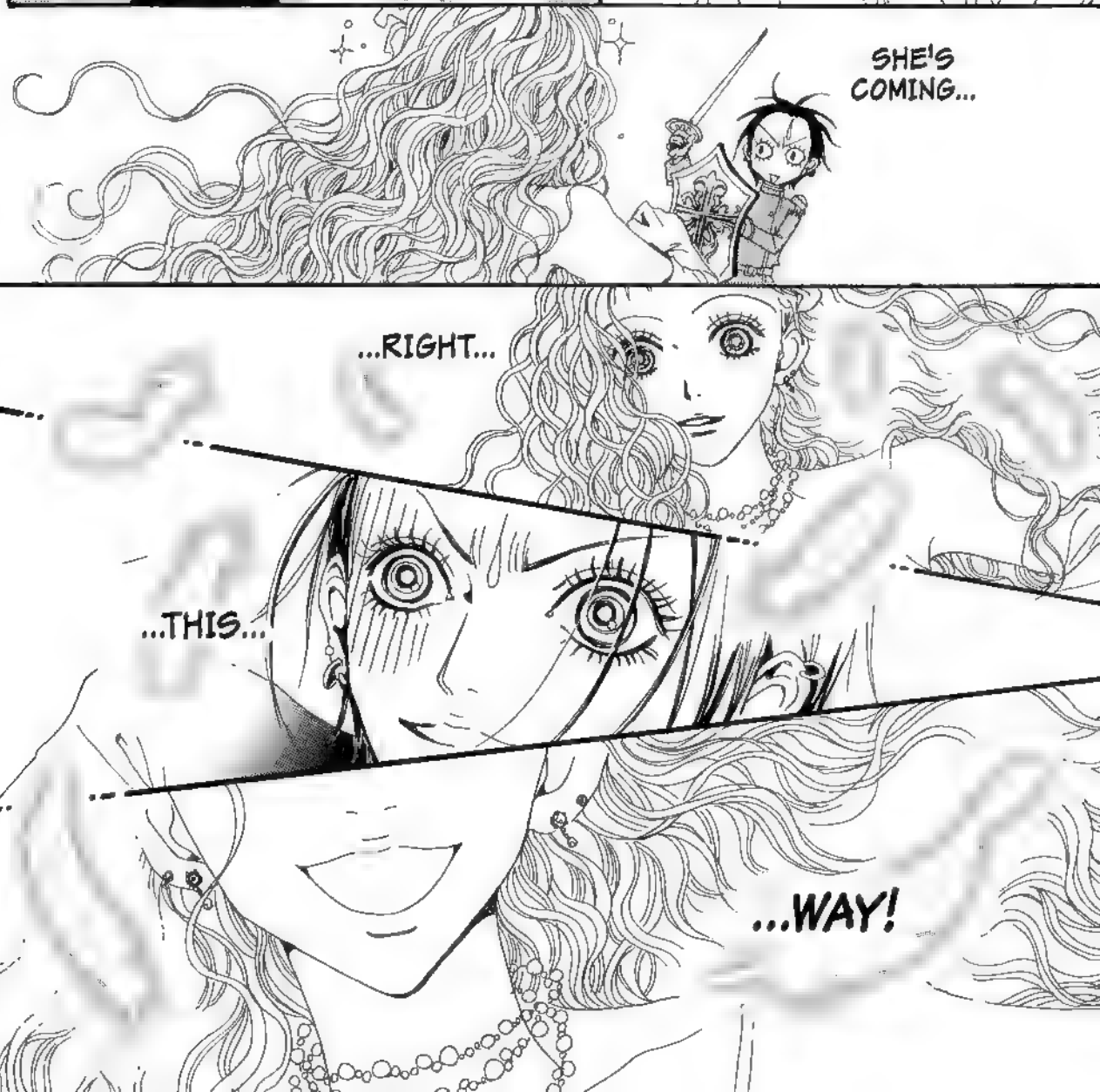
THEY WERE TOGETHER SINCE REN WAS BORN...
YASU'S BOND WITH REN IS FAR STRONGER THAN HIS BOND WITH ME.
...IN PLACE OF REN, WHO'S NOT CAPABLE OF DOING IT HIM-SELF.
YASU PUTS HIS LIFE ON THE LINE TO PROTECT ME...

...AT THE SAME ORPHAN-AGE.
...OF HELP-LESSLY DROWN-ING IN REN.
NO ONE'S GOING TO SAVE ME FROM THE PAIN...
MY LAST HOPE IS GONE.
ONLY REN CAN SAVE ME.

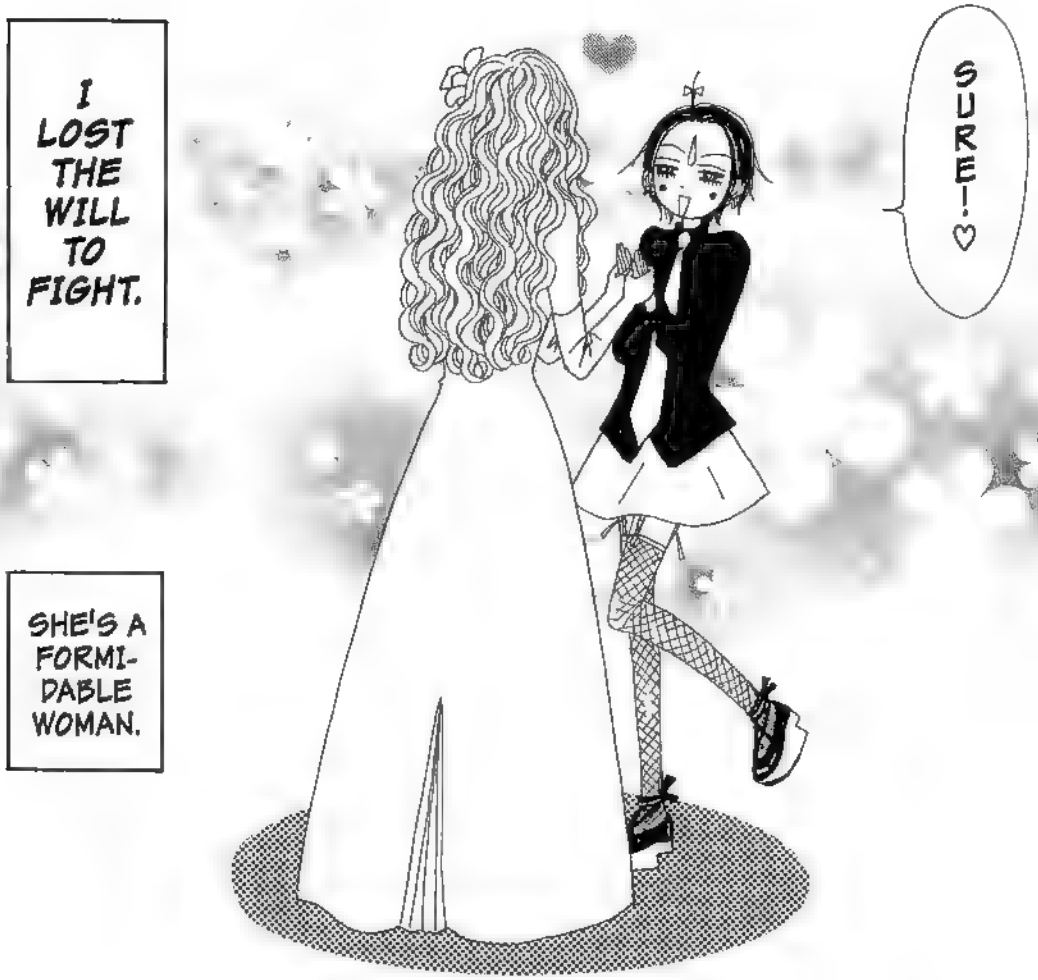
IT'S MY FATE. I CAN'T ESCAPE.

Side
WHY DOES THIS GUY'S MERE PRESENCE SPELL TROUBLE?
HE HAS TO BE THE DEMON LORD!
HIS VERY EXIS-TENCE IS EVIL!
...
FINE.
HEY NOBU— HOW YOU DOING?

REIRA'S HERE, IN THE FLESH.
FINALLY, ON THE SAME STAGE.
AND I'M HERE, TOO...
YEAH, LONG TIME NO SEE, REIRA.
SHE'S LOOKING RIGHT AT ME.
stare
LONG TIME NO SEE, NOBU.
YOUR GIRL-FRIEND'S REALLY REALLY WEIRD.
HOW'S IT GOING ?
SHIN, YOU TOO.


SHE'S COMING...
...RIGHT...
...THIS...
...WAY!

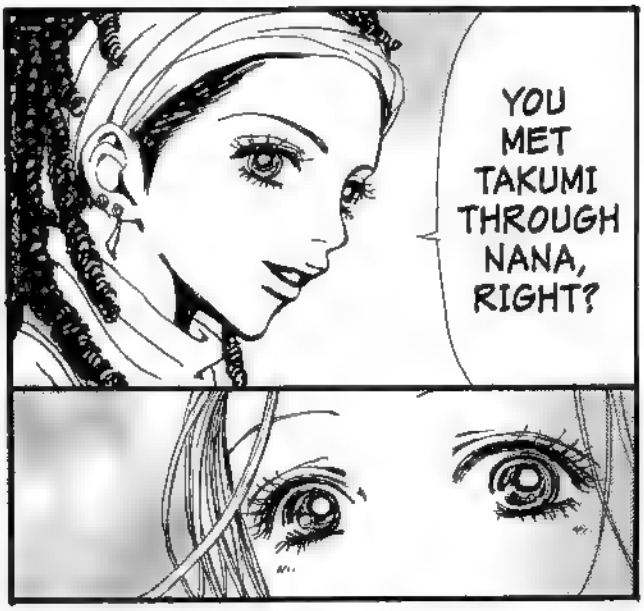
IT'S SO NICE TO FINALLY MEET YOU, NANA! ♡
I'M REIRA, FROM TRAP-NEST.
PLEASE BE MY FRIEND! ♡


I LOST THE WILL TO FIGHT.
SHE'S A FORMI-DABLE WOMAN.
SURE! ♡

DAMN, WHAT AN INSANE TV!
I ASKED TAKUMI TO BUY ME THE BIG-GEST ONE.♡
I REDID THE INTERIOR DESIGN ON THIS PLACE, TOO.♡
DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING A LITTLE OVER-BOARD?
YOU'RE GETTING SO SPOILED.
WHY DO GUYS ALWAYS SPOIL NANA?
NO, I'M NOT.
HE'S ACTUALLY STRICT WITH ME.
HE SAYS IF I'M BAD, HE WON'T DRY MY HAIR AFTER I GET OUT OF THE TUB.
I'M PREG-NANT. I'LL CATCH A COLD.
DRY IT YOUR-SELF!
I CAN'T WAIT FOR IT TO BE EIGHT O'CLOCK.
WE STILL HAVE TWO HOURS LEFT.
HURRY UP!
WELL, TIME PASSES, EVEN WHEN YOU DON'T WANT IT TO.
AREN'T YOU HUNGRY?
LET'S GET SOME FOOD DELIV-ERED.
shake shake
HEY!
IF SALAD AND PASTA ARE COOL, I'LL MAKE SOME RIGHT NOW.
I MADE LOTS OF TOMATO SAUCE WITH THE TOMATOES YOUR PARENTS SENT FROM HOME.

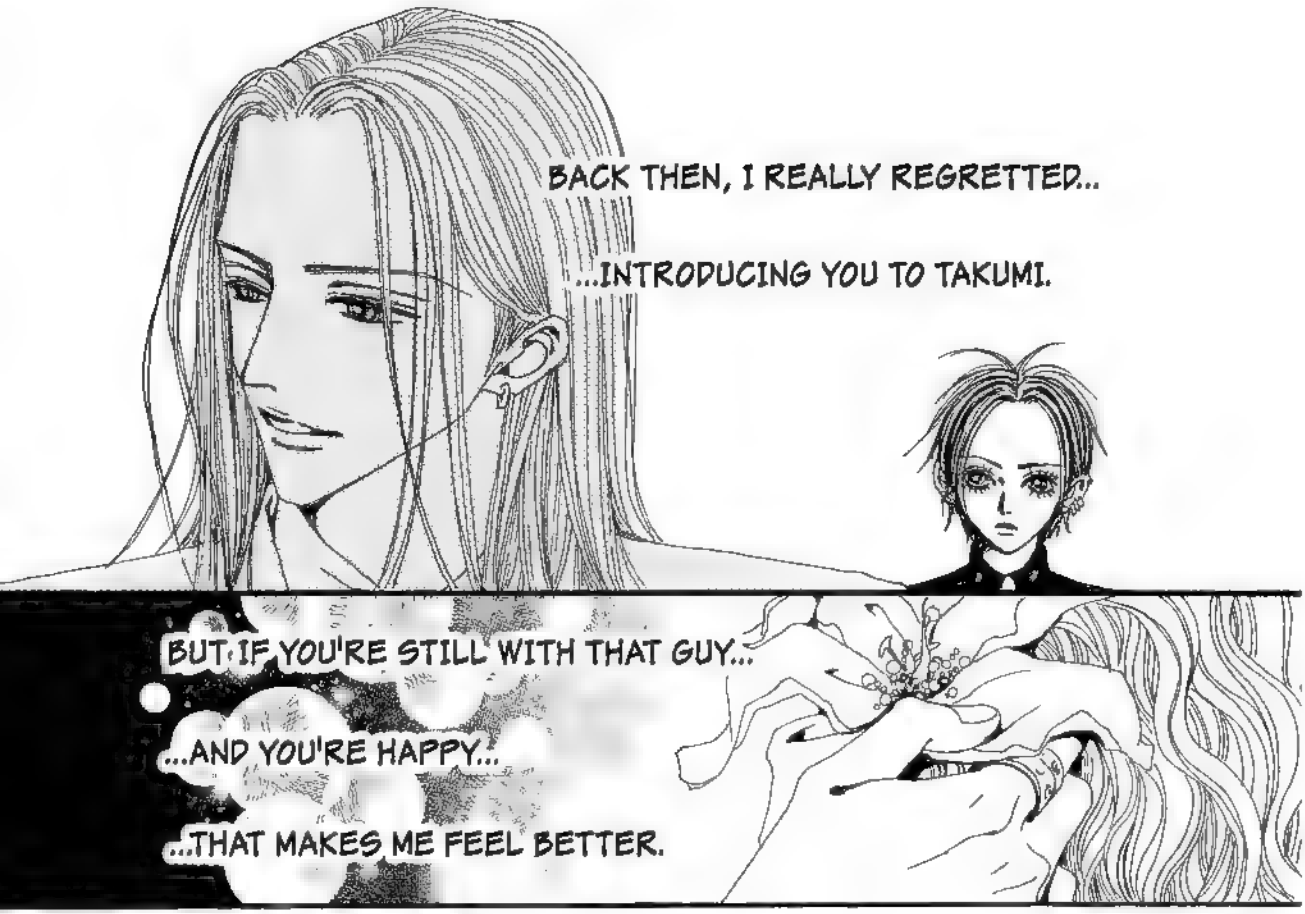
THEN COMING TO TOKYO WAS WORTH IT, IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING YOU'RE REALLY GOOD AT.
I DON'T LIKE COOKING FOR JUST MYSELF.
YEAH, OF COURSE.
BUT IF I'D LIVED ALONE, I WOULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN THIS GOOD AT IT.
MY MORNING SICKNESS IS START-ING TO GET BETTER. I WANT TO GO TO A COOKING SCHOOL AND BECOME AN IRON CHEF!
I'M REALLY INTO COOK-ING.
YEAH ...
YOU USED TO BE AN EXPERT IN LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT.
I WANT TO MEET OTHER GIRLS IN SIMILAR SITUA-TIONS. ♡
WOW...
YOU TURNED INTO AN EXPERT CHEF.
IT MAKES ME FEEL USEFUL AND HAPPY.
I LIKE COOKING FOR PEOPLE AND SEEING THEM ENJOY MY FOOD.
SO YOU HAVE THE GURU TO THANK FOR EVERY-THING.
I'M WORRIED ABOUT NANA AND REN'S WELL-BEING!
IT CAN'T BE GOOD FOR YOU TO EAT THAT MUCH SALT.
I COOKED ALMOST EVERY DAY, SO OF COURSE I GOT BETTER.
PLUS, NANA'S COOK-ING WAS ALWAYS TOO SALTY.

YOU'VE BEEN SAYING THIS AND THAT, BUT YOU SEEM TO BE HAPPIEST NOW, NANA.
I THINK YOU HAVE YOUR FEET ON THE GROUND MORE THAN BEFORE.
IT'S A RELIEF.


YOU MET TAKUMI THROUGH NANA, RIGHT?

HEY, HACHI...

EVERYONE PLEASE COME UP HERE!
I'LL TELL YOU ALL WHERE TO STAND FOR THE BROAD-CAST.


BACK THEN, I REALLY REGRETTED...
...INTRODUCING YOU TO TAKUMI.
BUT IF YOU'RE STILL WITH THAT GUY...
...AND YOU'RE HAPPY...
...THAT MAKES ME FEEL BETTER.

IT'S MY LAST RAY OF HOPE.

HER WAY OF TALKING WAS A LOT LIKE SINGING.
I REALIZED TAKUMI'S ANNOYING MONO-LOGUES, HOW HE STRETCHED HIS WORDS...
WERE JUST LIKE REIRA'S RHYTHM.
JUST LIKE I WAS TALKING LIKE REN, BEFORE I EVEN KNEW IT.

NANA
ナナ
[Chapter 40]

Ah
Ha
Ha
TAKUMI!

GRRR
R R R
WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THOSE TWO?!
SHE BETTER NOT BE.
HACHI AIN'T NO FOOL!
BUT IF REIRA'S PART OF THAT, WHILE HACHI WAITS AT HOME, COOKING— THAT'S JUST TOO MUCH.
CONSIDERING HOW MUCH TAKUMI GETS AROUND, I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED..
I FEEL THAT SCAB COMING OFF THE WOUND ON MY HEART AGAIN.
DAMN.
BUT IT ALL COMES RUSHING BACK WHENEVER I SEE TAKUMI'S SMUG, VICTORIOUS FACE.
I THOUGHT THOSE MISERABLE DAYS WHEN I THOUGHT ABOUT HACHI 24/7 WERE FINALLY OVER.

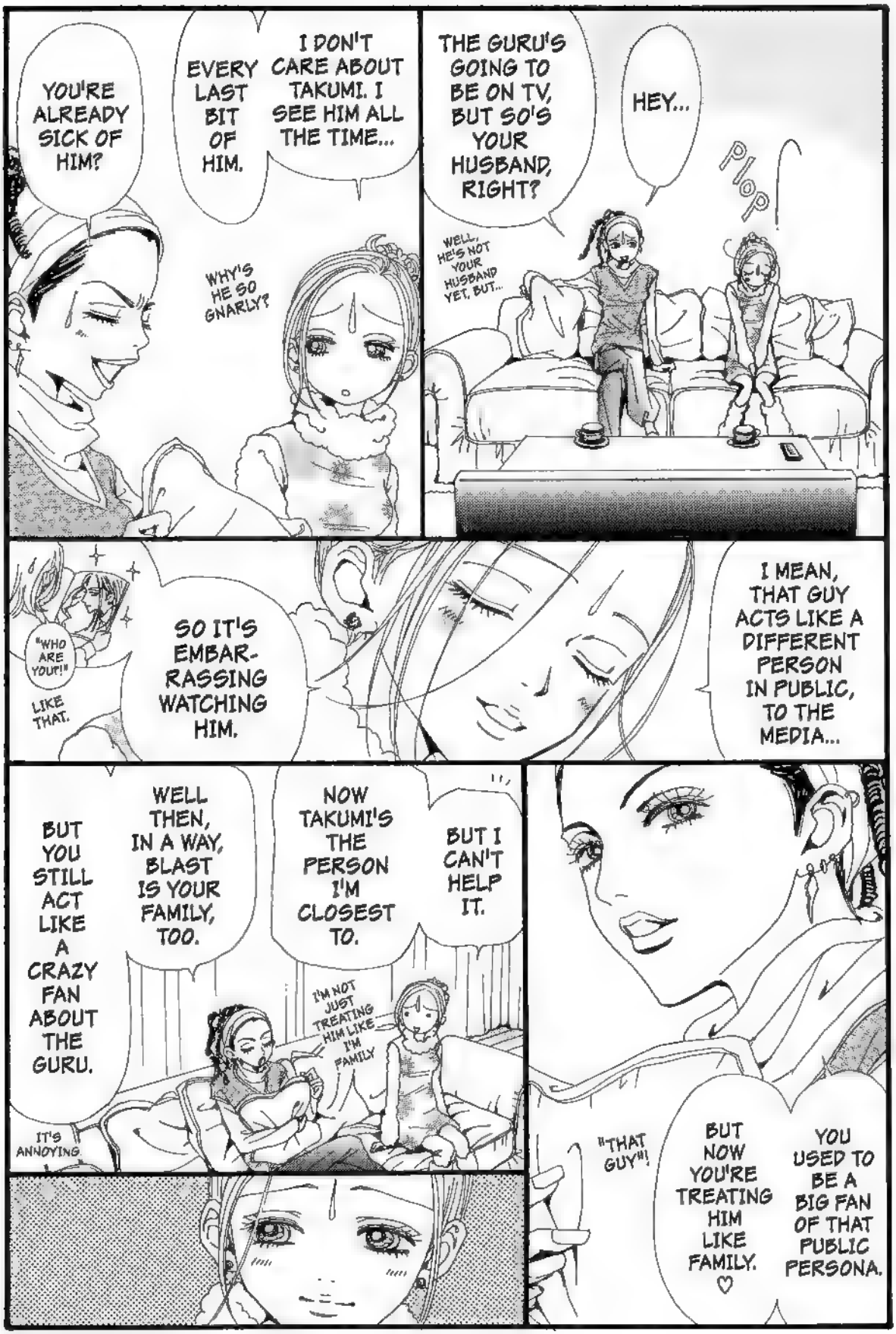
...MAKING HACHI FEEL WORSE, WHEN SHE WAS PROBABLY FEELING THE MOST HELPLESS IN HER LIFE.
I WAS SUCH A WIMP AND JUST GAVE UP...

This is their first live TV appearance.
The Black Stones, a hot topic band these days.
UM
Today's first guest is...
SLUG
ASK THEM WHAT THEY THINK OF ME INSTEAD!
....
You have the questions we'll be asking.
Then we'll ask you about your future plans.
Okay.
The talk will be about three minutes. Please introduce yourselves first.
MUSIC STUDIO
Yeah.
Thank you.

NANA, DON'T TALK BACK TO THE HOSTS.
ON AIR, DON'T TALK TOO MUCH, BE COOL.
...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
What the hell?! You're both saying the same thing at the same time!
DOH!
Actually, we would like to touch on that subject.
WHATEVER!
IT'S NOT MY FAULT REN SAID SOMETHING STUPID!
BUT IT WAS FUNNY.
YEAH.
THAT'S SO REN.
TOO BAD IT WASN'T ON AIR, NOW THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN FUNNY!
NOBU, YOU'RE NOT EATING?
HOW CAN YOU EAT BEFORE THE SHOW?
OH, ARE YOU NERVOUS? HOW CUTE.
LEAVE ME ALONE.
HEY_
WHEN YOU'RE NERVOUS, YOU SHOULD DRINK THREE GLASSES OF SHOCHU.
REN WAS SAYING THAT.
BUT THEN YOU'D BE DRUNK, NOBU.
SHIN!
DON'T YOU LISTEN TO REN!
JUST WRITE THE KANJI FOR "PERSON" THREE TIMES ON YOUR PALM, THEN DOWN IT.
AS IF!
I CAN'T JUST DOWN IT.
IT'S SHO-CHU.
....
GET ME IN FRONT OF A TV CAMERA, WHICH IS NEW FOR ME, AND EVEN I GET NERVOUS LIKE A COMMONER.

THE COMMER-CIAL RIGHT BEFORE THE SHOW...
...WILL AIR IN THIRTY SECONDS.
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I DO GET SCARED...
...THAT I'LL BE EXPOSED TO LOTS OF EAGER EYES.
TWENTY SEC-ONDS ...
SO I SECRETLY IMAGINE...
...HACHI WATCHING OVER ME...
...IN HER ROOM, BEFORE IT WAS EMPTY.
TEN SEC-ONDS ...
EIGHT ...
SEVEN ...
SIX...
FIVE SEC-ONDS ...
A MAGIC FORMULA TO ERASE MY ANXIETY.
BUT SHE MUST'VE THROWN THAT OLD TV OUT BY NOW.

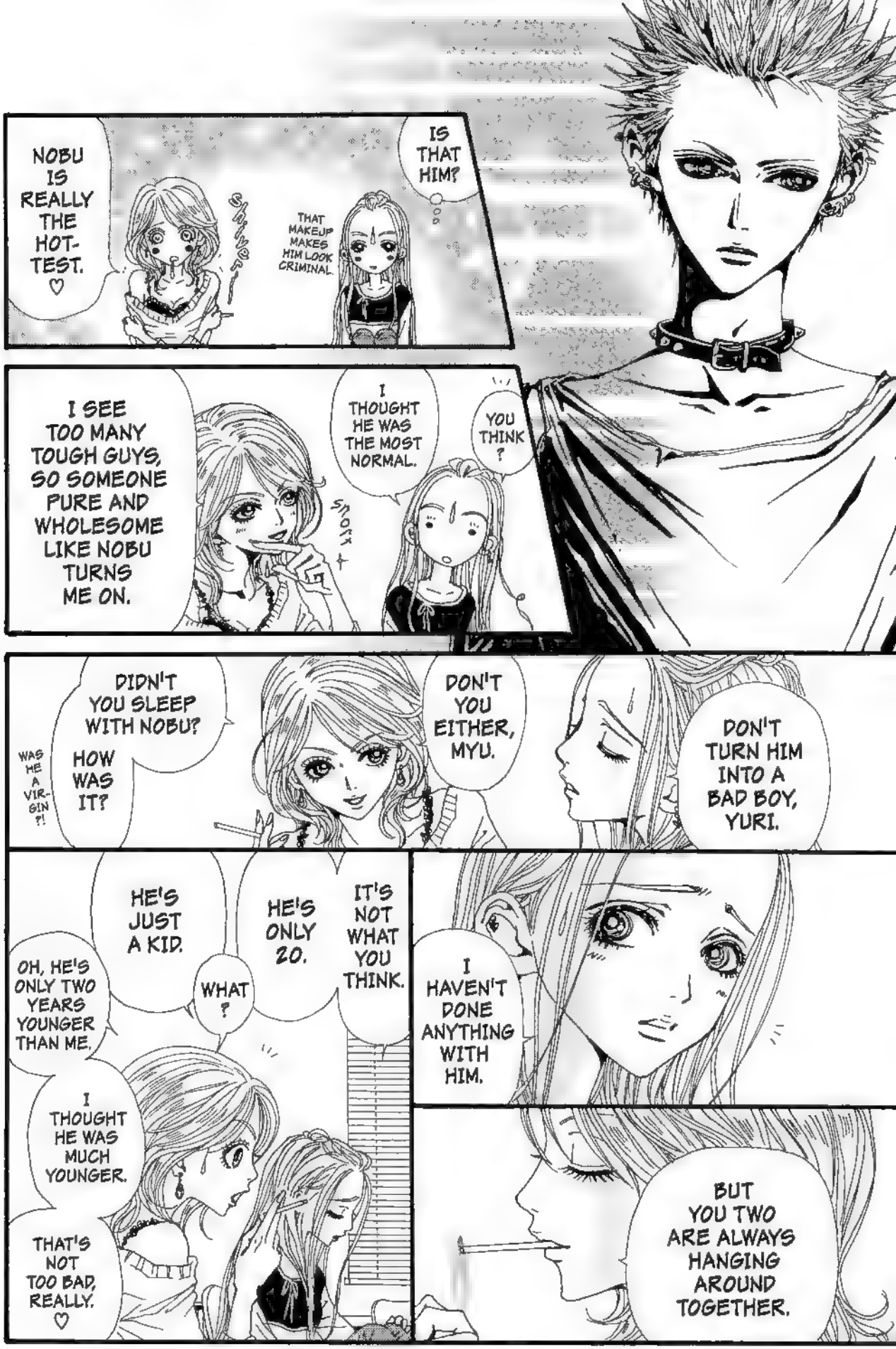
MUSIC
STUDIO
"Music Studio" ...
...is on now!
And it's live!
I SAW HER!
Don't touch that dial!
NANA!
SHE LOOKED THIS WAY AND SMILED AT ME!
DID YOU SEE IT, JUN?
I DOUBT SHE'S SMILING AT JUST YOU.
YOU MAKE A BETTER DOOR THAN A WINDOW. MOVE OVER.


YOU'RE ALREADY SICK OF HIM?
EVERY LAST BIT OF HIM.
I DON'T CARE ABOUT TAKUMI. I SEE HIM ALL THE TIME...
WHY'S HE SO GNARLY?
THE GURU'S GOING TO BE ON TV, BUT SO'S YOUR HUSBAND, RIGHT?
HEY...
Plop
WELL, HE'S NOT YOUR HUSBAND YET, BUT...
"WHO ARE YOU?!"
LIKE THAT.
SO IT'S EMBARRASSING WATCHING HIM.
I MEAN, THAT GUY ACTS LIKE A DIFFERENT PERSON IN PUBLIC, TO THE MEDIA...
BUT YOU STILL ACT LIKE A CRAZY FAN ABOUT THE GURU.
WELL THEN, IN A WAY, BLAST IS YOUR FAMILY, TOO.
NOW TAKUMI'S THE PERSON I'M CLOSEST TO.
BUT I CAN'T HELP IT.
I'M NOT JUST TREATING HIM LIKE I'M FAMILY
IT'S ANNOYING
"THAT GUY"!
BUT NOW YOU'RE TREATING HIM LIKE FAMILY. ♡
YOU USED TO BE A BIG FAN OF THAT PUBLIC PERSONA.

WELL, SHE MUST BE PRETTY BUSY.
I DOUBT SHE HAS TIME TO DEAL WITH YOU.
IT MAKES ME SAD.
sniff
I GUESS THAT'S A LOT LIKE BEING A FAN.
BUT WITH NANA, I'M WATCHING HER FROM AFAR.
I CAN ONLY GET WORRIED OR BE EXCITED FOR HER.
...BY PLAY-ING IT COOL.
I'M GOING TO REAS-SURE HACHI...
MUSIC
STUDIO
BUT I'M SAD THAT SHE WON'T DEPEND ON ME.
SHE DOESN'T HAVE TO DEAL WITH ME.
THE COUNT-DOWN TO GOING LIVE IS START-ING.

And I'm Tsuyoshi Morishita.
I'm your host, Chie Taka-hashi. ♡
Good even-ing!

BUT THOSE TITS HAVE TO BE FAKE.
.....
SCOOT
Tonight we have super-special guests for the hour. ♡
NO WONDER THEIR TIMING IS PERFECT! ♡
THAT HOST WITH THE BIG TITS AND THE ANNOUNCER GUY ARE HAVING AN AFFAIR.
And it's time to get them all out here!
THE BETTER TO SEE NOBU WITH! ♡
CUZ I WANNA SEE IT ON THE BIG SCREEN!
....
WHY'RE YOU WATCHING IT IN HERE?
YOU GOT A TV IN YOUR ROOM, YURI.
YAY!
WOO HOO!
It's their first time on the show!
Black Stones!


NOBU IS REALLY THE HOT-TEST. ♡
shiver
IS THAT HIM?
THAT MAKEUP MAKES HIM LOOK CRIMINAL.
I SEE TOO MANY TOUGH GUYS, SO SOMEONE PURE AND WHOLESOME LIKE NOBU TURNS ME ON.
I THOUGHT HE WAS THE MOST NORMAL.
sigh
YOU THINK ?
DIDN'T YOU SLEEP WITH NOBU?
HOW WAS IT?
WAS HE A VIR-GIN ?!
DON'T YOU EITHER, MYU.
DON'T TURN HIM INTO A BAD BOY, YURI.
HE'S JUST A KID.
HE'S ONLY 20.
IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK.
WHAT ?
OH, HE'S ONLY TWO YEARS YOUNGER THAN ME.
I THOUGHT HE WAS MUCH YOUNGER.
THAT'S NOT TOO BAD, REALLY. ♡
I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING WITH HIM.
BUT YOU TWO ARE ALWAYS HANGING AROUND TOGETHER.

So you're working on your new album now?
Tentatively.
When will it be released?
Sometime this year.
MUSIC STUDIO
ON THE LIVE BROADCAST, REN LOOKED COOL AND MATURE.
OF COURSE HE WOULDN'T CUT INTO MY TALK.
HE SWITCHED SO EASILY INTO THE ROLE OF TRAPNEST REN.
IT'S BETTER THAN ACTING LIKE A CLOWN, BUT THIS IS JUST WEIRD AND ROBOTIC.
So then, let's hear a song!
Black Stones ...
Or "BLAST"!
YAY!!
clap clap clap
....

...EVERY-THING.
I WANT TO CRUSH AND DESTROY...
WHAT A LAME-ASS SHOW!
IT'S ALL A MONKEY PERFOR-MANCE, SO FAKE...
TRAPNEST'S CONTRIVED COMPOSURE, THE MCS' PAINTED-ON SMILES, THE PREPARED, AND DIPLOMATIC QUESTIONS...
I GUESS YOU CAN'T JUST DO WHATEVER YOU WANT AND STILL GET PAID.
I ALSO GET PAID FOR PLAYING THE PART OF BLAST NANA, THE MEDIA CREATION.
BUT THEN...

EVERY-ONE SAYS SHE'S AN EVIL SLUT.
...WHO USED TO BE A BAD GIRL.
Ha Ha
ARE YOU REALLY? I READ THE TABLOIDS. SHE'S JUST SOME CHICK...
I'M SURE SHE HAD A GOOD REASON FOR BEING A JUVENILE DELINQUENT.
NANA FROM BLAST.
SHE'S GREAT ...
I'M A BIG FAN.
ALL RIGHT, ORDER UP!
A LOT OF PEOPLE HAVE HAD A ROUGH LIFE, BUT STILL MANAGE TO LIVE HONESTLY.
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT.
HMPH.
OH NO— IT'S GOT A GREAT OLD-TIMEY ATMOS-PHERE.
BUT THIS IS SUCH A SHABBY PLACE.
I'M GLAD TO HEAR THAT.
REALLY?
I'D RATHER EAT IN A COMFORT-ABLE PLACE LIKE THIS.
...AND A FRIEND TOLD ME TO COME EAT HERE 'CAUSE THE OKONO-MIYAKI'S THE BEST.
I CAME HERE TO OSAKA ON A BUSI-NESS TRIP...
IT LOOKS GREAT.
CRACK

THANKS, GOOD NIGHT!
YOU KIND OF REMIND ME OF NANA.
AND THE OKAMISAN IS HOT.
NOW SHE'S JUST A HARD-WORKIN' OLD LADY.
WELL, SHE WAS QUITE BEAUTIFUL WHEN SHE WAS YOUNG.
Ha Ha
WHAT'RE YOU SAYING ?
UH—
THANK YOU. COME BACK NOW, 'HEAR?
I DON'T KNOW, THEY'RE A LOT ALIKE...
EVEN DOWN TO THAT HUSKY VOICE.

Okonomiyaki
YOU CAN MAKE UP WHATEVER RUMORS AND SORDID PAST YOU WANT.
MY LIFE WAS JUST A THIRD-RATE DRAMA.
...MY SCRIPT TO A BRIGHT FUTURE.
BUT I HAVE TO WRITE...

I'M NO LONGER THAT HELPLESS CHILD WHO WAS LEFT BEHIND.

MARRY ME.

MARRIAGE WAS REN'S WAY OF TRYING TO TAKE RESPONSI-BILITY.

...THAT'S ONE WAY TO DO IT.

IF WE WANT TO PROTECT OUR STATUS AND BE TOGETHER...

WE NEVER TALKED ABOUT A FORMAL THING LIKE MARRIAGE BEFORE.

IT'S KIND OF JUST A SHOW RIGHT NOW.

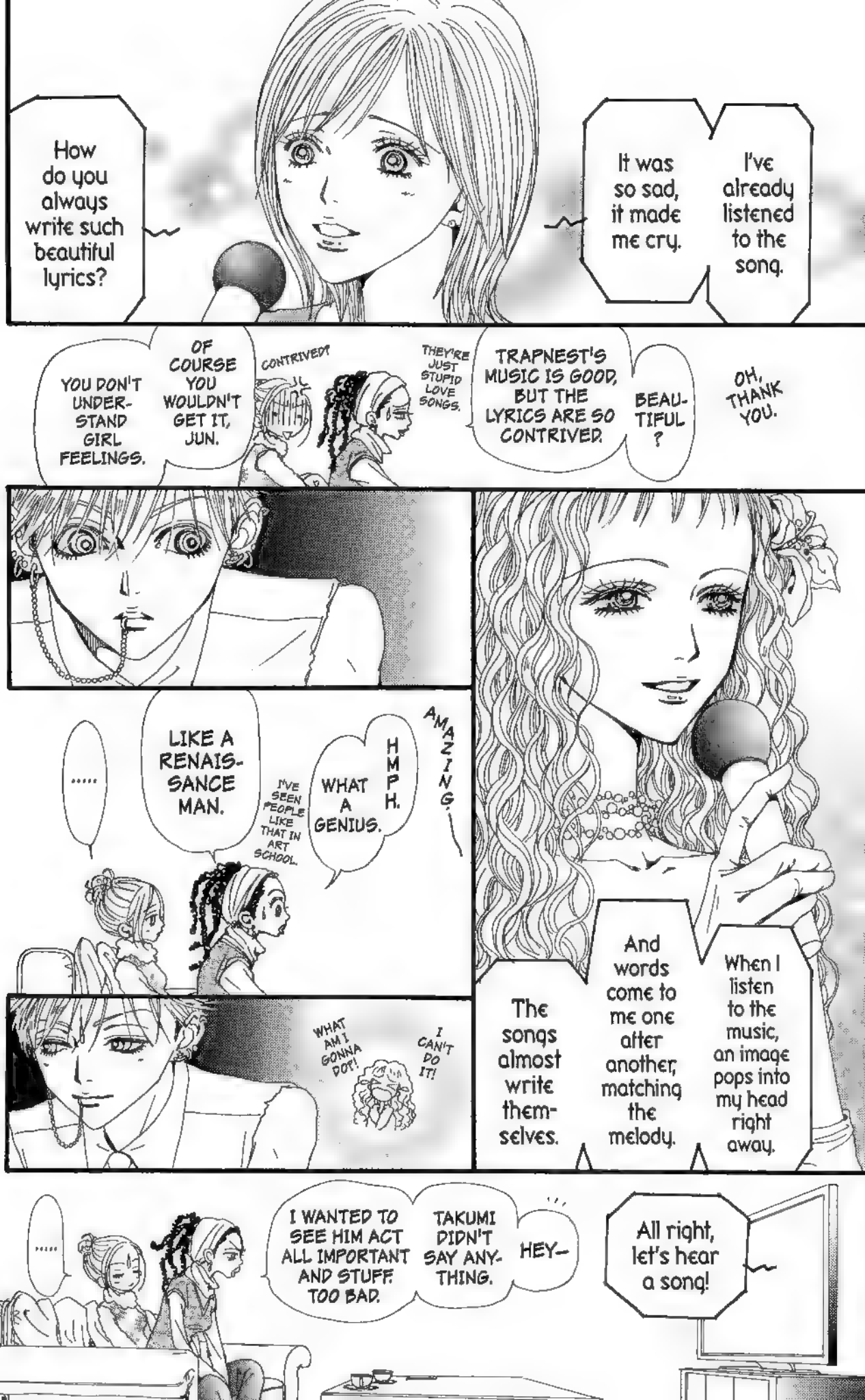
...BUT MOST PEOPLE WILL ACCEPT IT AS A LOVE STORY WITH A HAPPY ENDING.

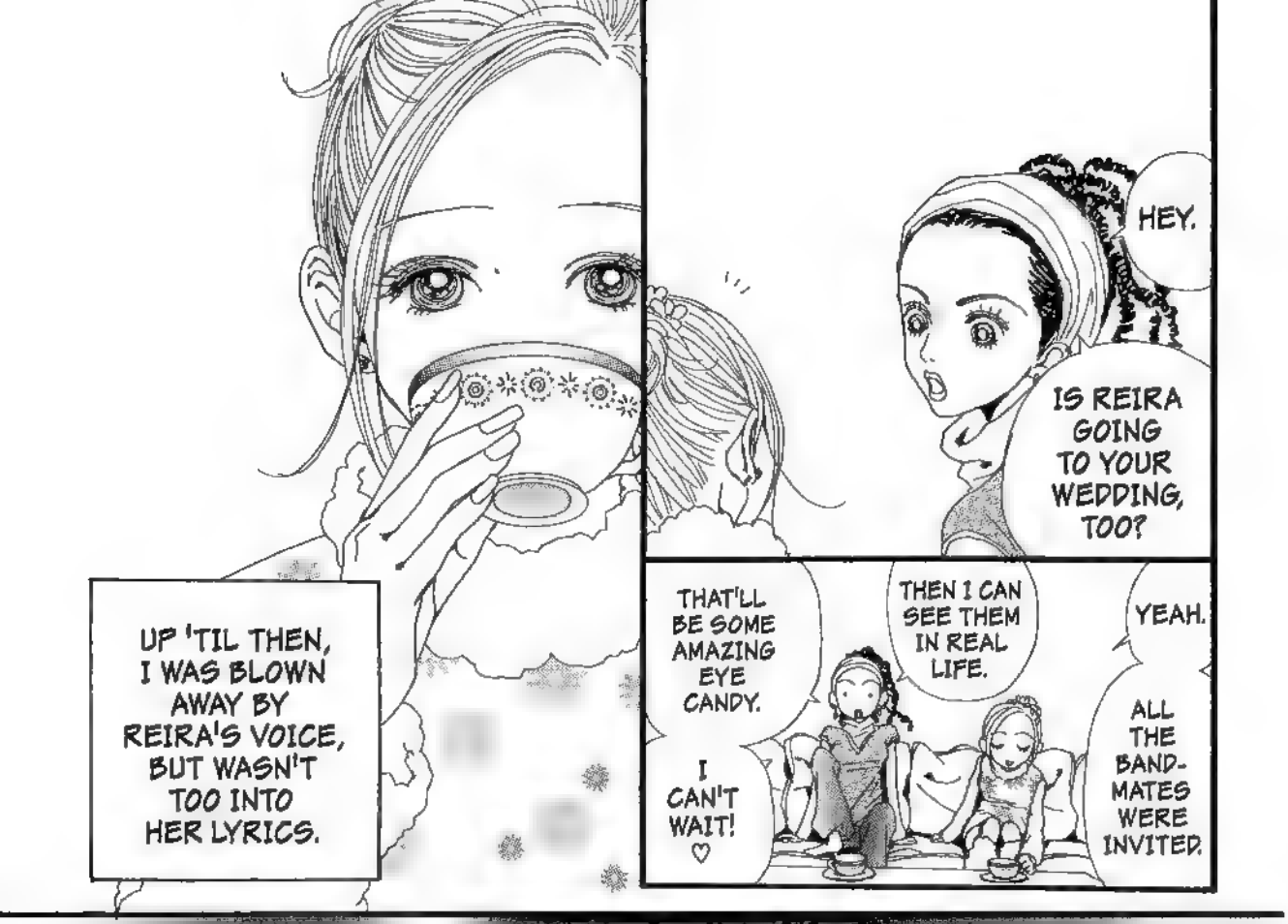
SOME OF THE DIE-HARD FANS WILL FREAK OUT AND GET MAD...

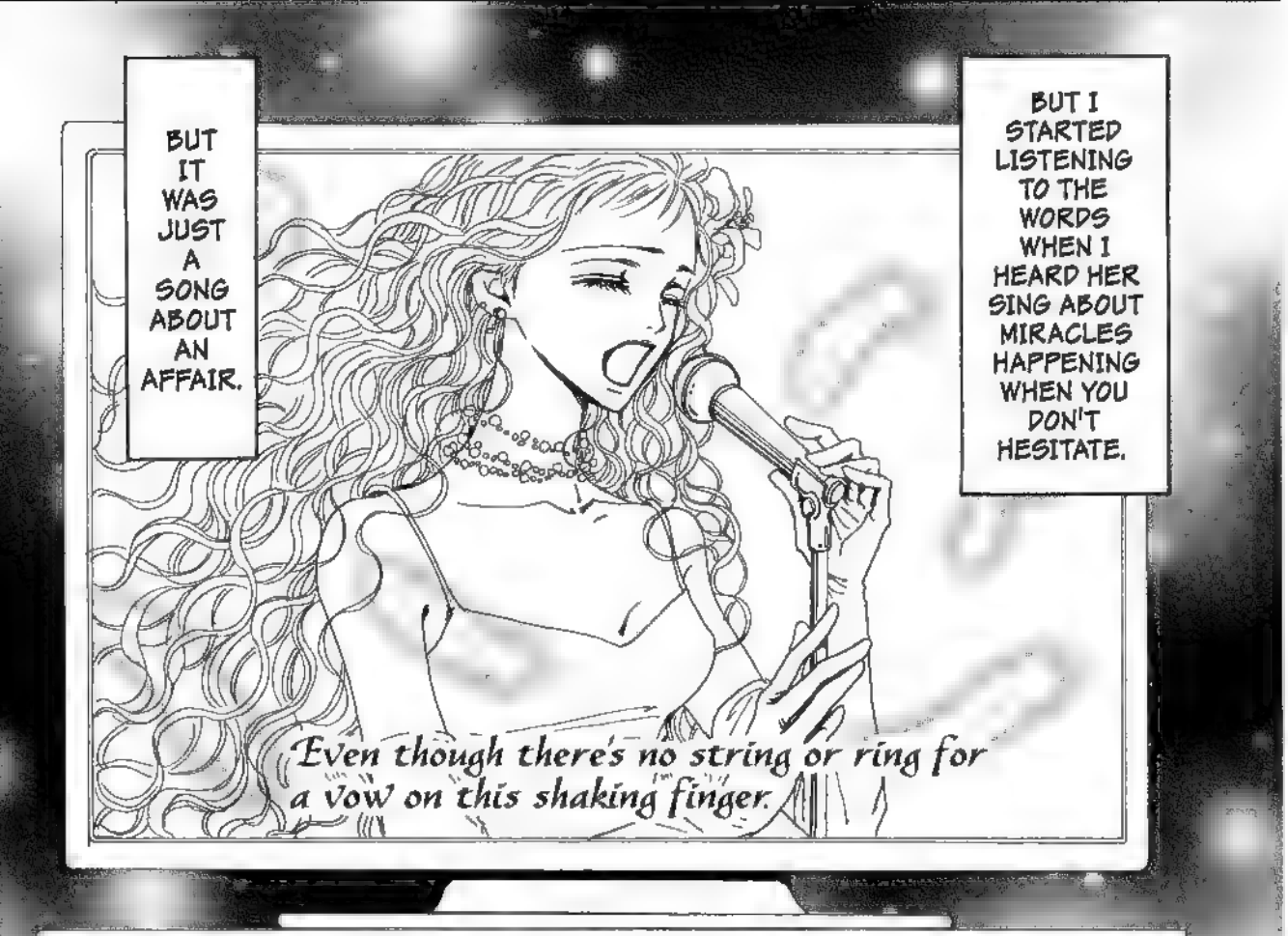
...AND GET MARRIED AS THE PROOF.

WE PUBLICIZE THAT WE REALLY LOVE EACH OTHER...

...WHERE WE CAN'T SEE EACH OTHER.
I CAN'T LIVE ANY MORE DAYS...
BUT THAT'S ALL RIGHT.
It's Trap-nest!
Long time, no see!
And now for to-night's final quest!
....
clap clap
TAKUMI!
YAY!
THANKS FOR COMING!
I wrote the lyrics with that as the theme.
Yeah.
Your new song "TRUST" is about trust?
DUH.

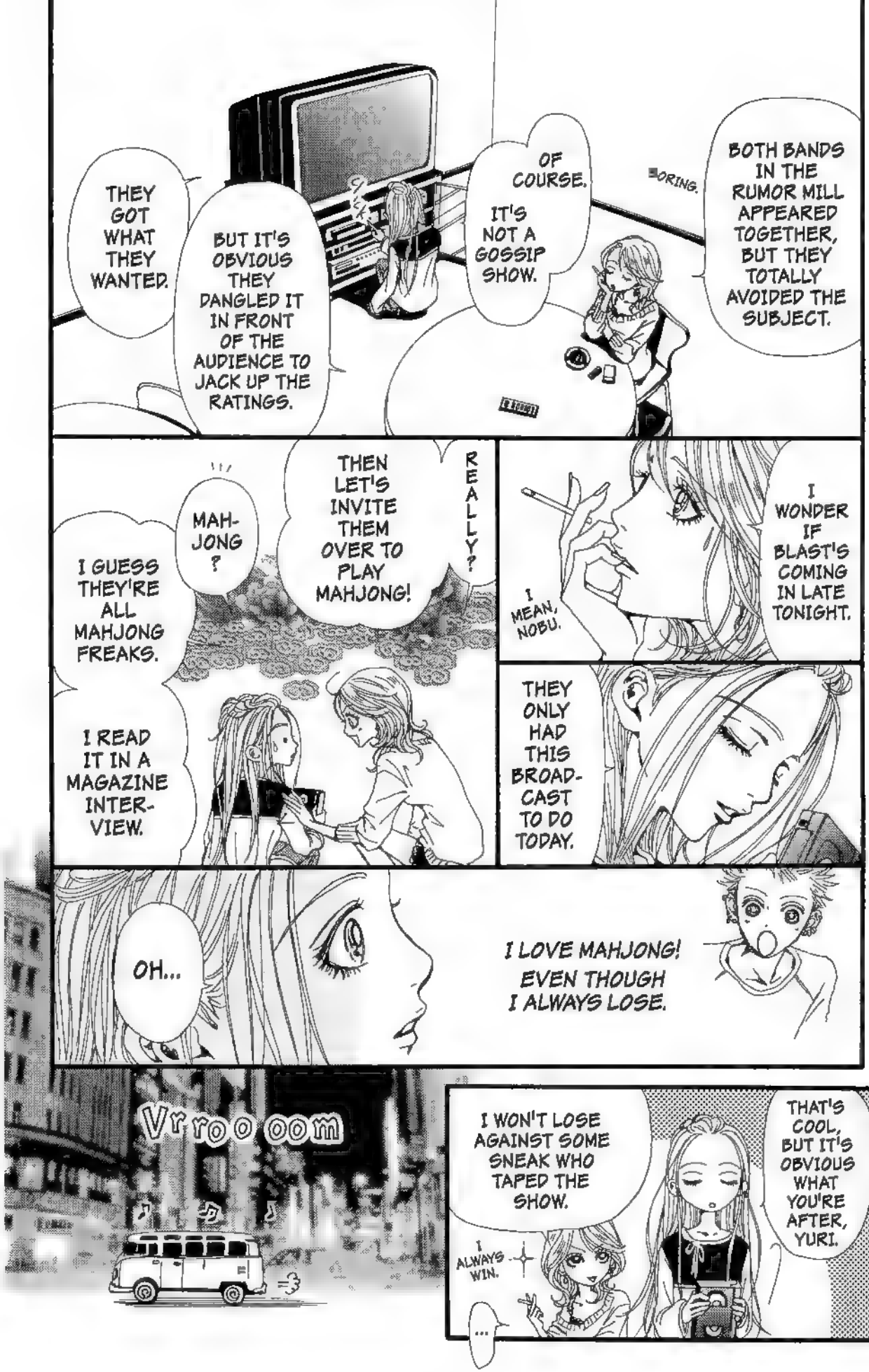

How do you always write such beautiful lyrics?
It was so sad, it made me cry.
I've already listened to the song.
OH, THANK YOU.
BEAUTIFUL?
TRAPNEST'S MUSIC IS GOOD, BUT THE LYRICS ARE SO CONTRIVED.
THEY'RE JUST STUPID LOVE SONGS.
CONTRIVED?
OF COURSE YOU WOULDN'T GET IT, JUN.
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND GIRL FEELINGS.
When I listen to the music, an image pops into my head right away.
And words come to me one after another, matching the melody.
The songs almost write themselves.
AMAZING...
HMPH. WHAT A GENIUS.
I'VE SEEN PEOPLE LIKE THAT IN ART SCHOOL.
LIKE A RENAISSANCE MAN.
.....
I CAN'T DO IT!
WHAT AM I GONNA DO?!
HEY—
TAKUMI DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING.
I WANTED TO SEE HIM ACT ALL IMPORTANT AND STUFF. TOO BAD.
.....
All right, let's hear a song!


HEY.
IS REIRA GOING TO YOUR WEDDING, TOO?
YEAH.
ALL THE BAND-MATES WERE INVITED.
THEN I CAN SEE THEM IN REAL LIFE.
THAT'LL BE SOME AMAZING EYE CANDY.
I CAN'T WAIT! ♡
UP 'TIL THEN, I WAS BLOWN AWAY BY REIRA'S VOICE, BUT WASN'T TOO INTO HER LYRICS.


BUT I STARTED LISTENING TO THE WORDS WHEN I HEARD HER SING ABOUT MIRACLES HAPPENING WHEN YOU DON'T HESITATE.
BUT IT WAS JUST A SONG ABOUT AN AFFAIR.
Even though there's no string or ring for a vow on this shaking finger.

AFTER THE BROAD-CAST, I GRABBED REN AND INTERRO-GATED HIM.
NO WAY, IT'S NOT POSSIBLE.
HE TOTALLY DENIED IT.
MY SUSPICION OF TAKUMI AND REIRA BLEW UP INSIDE ME.
WHEN'S "NEXT TIME" ?!
IT'S ALL FINE, REALLY.
I HAVE TO CHANGE AND SPLIT, SO IF YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT THAT, LET'S COVER IT NEXT TIME.
I FEEL MORE SORRY FOR REIRA.
AND HE DOES WHAT HE SAYS.
BUT TAKUMI JUST SAID IT WASN'T.
'DUNNO ...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!
I DON'T BELIEVE HIM!
I FEEL BAD FOR HACHI!
...

YOU'LL MARRY ME?
WHAT?
I DON'T KNOW ...
I THOUGHT YOU WANTED TO GET MARRIED?!
YOU CAN'T JUST DO WHATEVER YOU WANT, RIGHT?
I'LL DISCUSS IT WITH THE AGENCY.
BUT WHY DO WE NEED ...
LIVING IN THE HUMAN WORLD IS A PAIN IN THE ASS.
...SOME-ONE ELSE'S CONSENT AND A CERTIFICATE TO LOVE EACH OTHER?


BOTH BANDS IN THE RUMOR MILL APPEARED TOGETHER, BUT THEY TOTALLY AVOIDED THE SUBJECT.
BORING.
OF COURSE. IT'S NOT A GOSSIP SHOW.
BUT IT'S OBVIOUS THEY DANGLED IT IN FRONT OF THE AUDIENCE TO JACK UP THE RATINGS.
THEY GOT WHAT THEY WANTED.
I WONDER IF BLAST'S COMING IN LATE TONIGHT.
I MEAN, NOBU.
THEY ONLY HAD THIS BROAD-CAST TO DO TODAY.
REALLY?
THEN LET'S INVITE THEM OVER TO PLAY MAHJONG!
MAH-JONG ?
I GUESS THEY'RE ALL MAHJONG FREAKS.
I READ IT IN A MAGAZINE INTER-VIEW.
OH...
I LOVE MAHJONG! EVEN THOUGH I ALWAYS LOSE.
Vrroo oom
THAT'S COOL, BUT IT'S OBVIOUS WHAT YOU'RE AFTER, YURI.
I WON'T LOSE AGAINST SOME SNEAK WHO TAPED THE SHOW.
I ALWAYS WIN.
...

CONSULTING THE AGENCY... THE PRESIDENT'S SCARY. I'M NO MATCH FOR GINPEI BY WORD OR SWORD.
BUT HOW SHOULD I GO ABOUT IT?
click
clack
THEY'LL SAY NO FOR SURE.
IF I TELL YASU, HE'LL DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT FOR SURE.
NANA ...
GAIA PAID US OUR ADVANCE, SO GO GET A CELL PHONE.
THEN YOU CAN AT LEAST E-MAIL REN SOMETIMES.
I CAN DO WHAT I WANT WITH YASU ON MY SIDE.
I THOUGHT WE ALREADY GOT THE ADVANCE.
I WAS JUST FINE WITH THE MONEY IN MY POCKET.
YOU NEED A CELL PHONE FOR WORK, SO GET ONE.
WE PAY YOU A SALARY.
WHY DON'T YOU HAVE ONE?
?
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
IT'D BE HARD ON REN TO WAIT FOR E-MAILS THAT ONLY COME SPORADICALLY.
WHEN YOU GET A CELL PHONE, IT STARTS RUNNING YOUR LIFE.

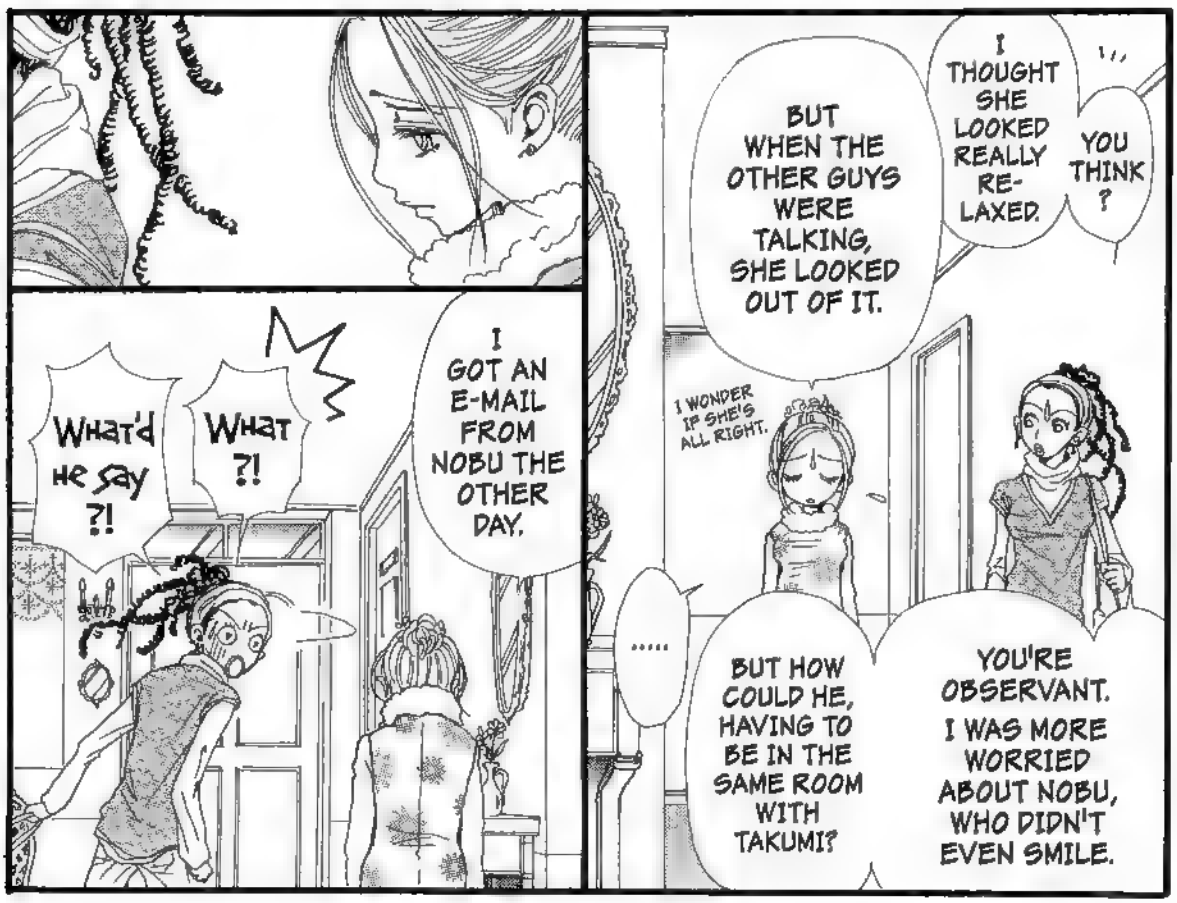
I WON'T MESS WITH YOU ANYMORE.

PLEASE JUST BE HAPPY WITH SOMEONE QUICK.

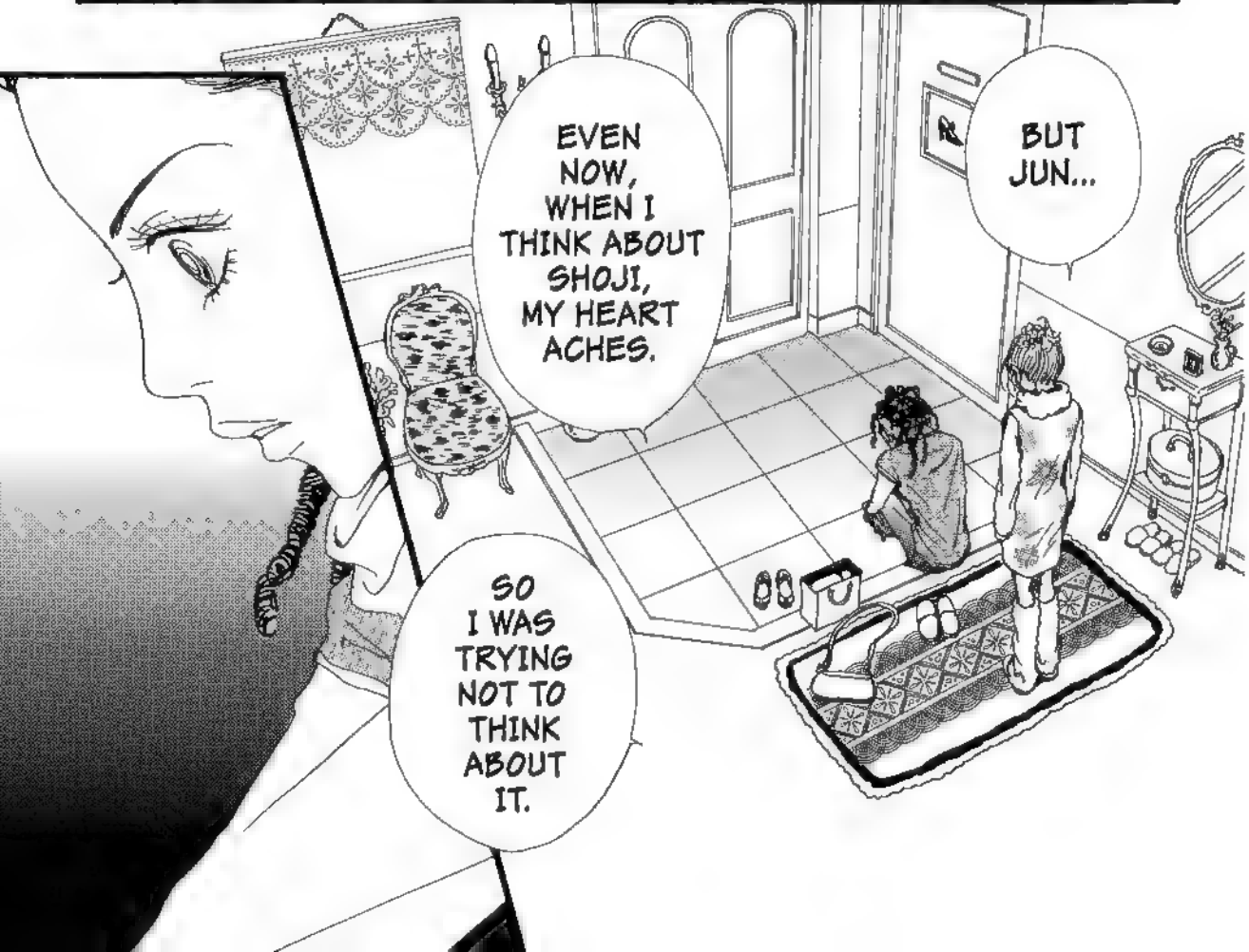
YOU'RE THE SOCIAL ONE.

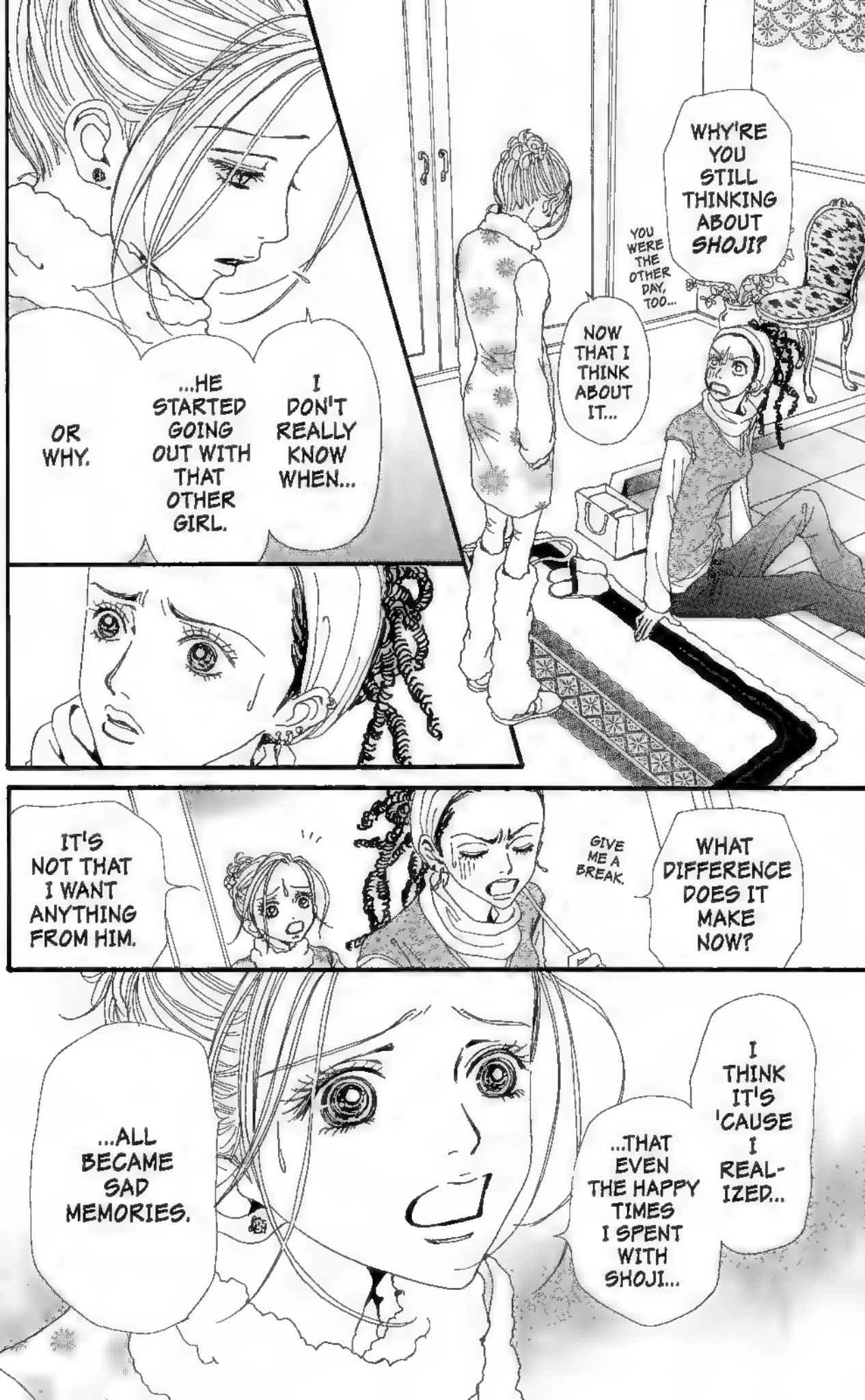
WHAT'LL HAPPEN IF YOU START HATING CELL PHONES, TOO?

NANA LOOKED A LITTLE DEPRESSED TO ME.


I GOT AN E-MAIL FROM NOBU THE OTHER DAY.
What?!
What'd he say?!
BUT WHEN THE OTHER GUYS WERE TALKING, SHE LOOKED OUT OF IT.
I THOUGHT SHE LOOKED REALLY RELAXED.
YOU THINK?
I WONDER IF SHE'S ALL RIGHT.
.....
BUT HOW COULD HE, HAVING TO BE IN THE SAME ROOM WITH TAKUMI?
YOU'RE OBSERVANT.
I WAS MORE WORRIED ABOUT NOBU, WHO DIDN'T EVEN SMILE.

THAT HE WANTS TO TALK TO ME ONE LAST TIME.
I BROKE UP WITH HIM WITHOUT TELLING HIM ANY-THING.
BUT I DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO REPLY.
AND IT'S BEEN A MONTH NOW.
SO YOU NEVER REALLY SETTLED THINGS?
I'M NOT SUR-PRISED.
IT'D BE WORSE IF YOU LET HIM EXPECT SOMETHING.
BUT IT'S PROB-ABLY BEST YOU DIDN'T REPLY.
BUT WITH YOU IGNORING HIM FOR THIS LONG, HE'D HAVE TO GIVE UP AND MOVE ON.


BUT JUN...
EVEN NOW, WHEN I THINK ABOUT SHOJI, MY HEART ACHES.
SO I WAS TRYING NOT TO THINK ABOUT IT.

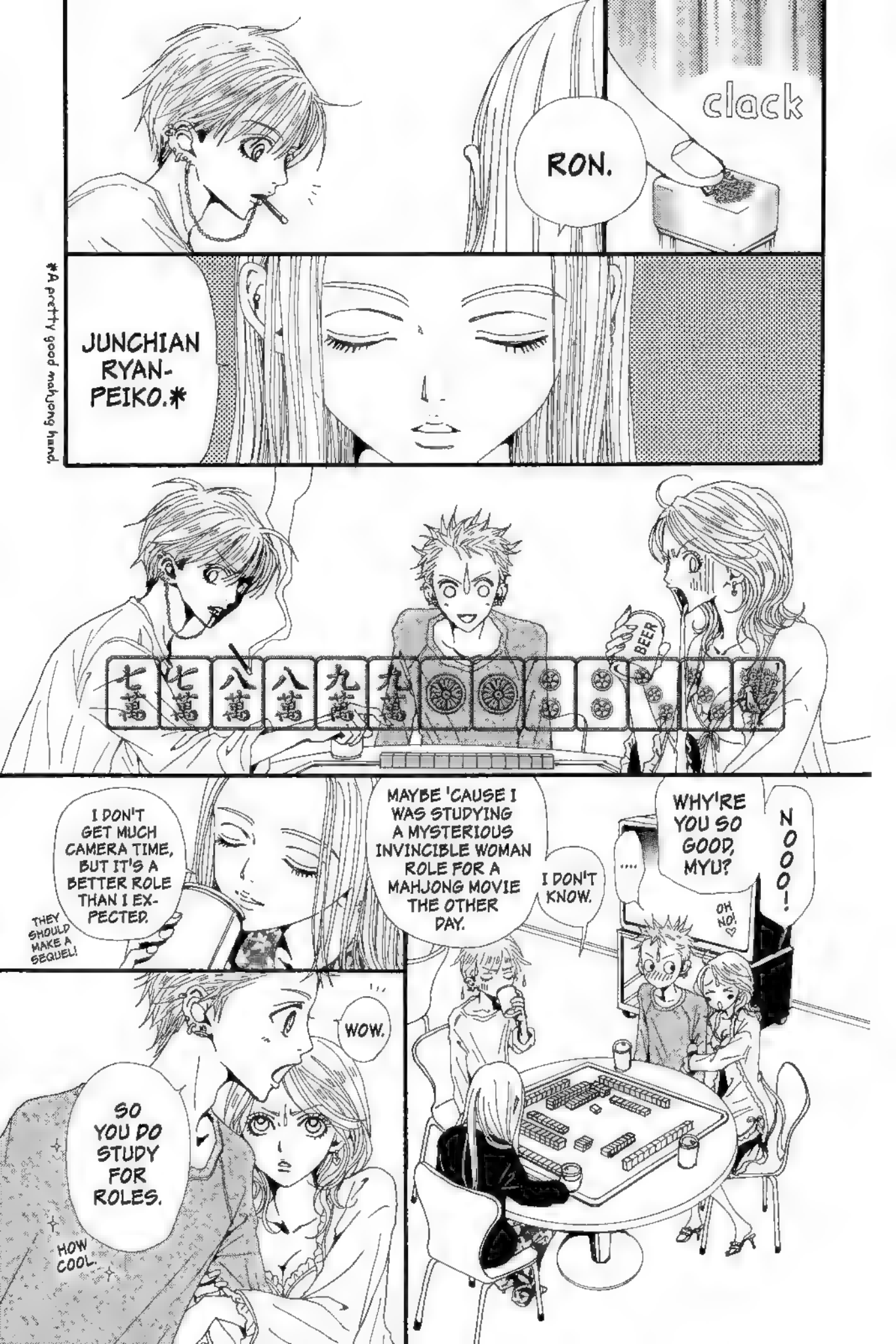

WHY'RE YOU STILL THINKING ABOUT SHOJI?
YOU WERE THE OTHER DAY, TOO...
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT...
I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHEN...
...HE STARTED GOING OUT WITH THAT OTHER GIRL.
OR WHY.
WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE NOW?
GIVE ME A BREAK.
IT'S NOT THAT I WANT ANYTHING FROM HIM.
I THINK IT'S 'CAUSE I REAL-IZED...
...THAT EVEN THE HAPPY TIMES I SPENT WITH SHOJI...
...ALL BECAME SAD MEMORIES.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S REAL AND WHAT ARE LIES.
THE PAIN OF BEING BETRAYED BY SOME-ONE YOU TRUSTED CAN'T BE ERASED SO EASILY.
SO I'M WORRIED THAT NOBU MIGHT BE CARRYING SAD FEELINGS WITH HIM LIKE I DO...
...EVEN IF HE HAS A NEW GIRLFRIEND.
HE'LL PROBABLY RUN INTO TAKUMI A LOT NOW.
I CHOSE TAKUMI ...
...BUT I REALLY LOVED NOBU.
TELLING HIM THAT AND HAVING HIM UNDER-STAND THAT...
...MIGHT BE THE ONLY ATONEMENT I CAN MAKE.
BUT WOULD THAT JUST MAKE ME FEEL BETTER?
WILL I HURT HIM EVEN MORE?
WHAT DO YOU THINK, JUN?

I SEE...
WHAT A COMPLI-CATED SITUATION.
YEAH.
EVERY-ONE'S DIFFERENT. I KNOW THERE ARE NO RIGHT ANSWERS...
I JUST TOLD HER, DO WHAT YOU WANT TO DO.
WITH SHOJI, HE WANTED TO STATE HIS CASE, RIGHT?
BUT I'M WOR-RIED.
MAYBE WE SHOULDN'T HAVE STOPPED HIM.
BUT I JUST GO OFF ABOUT THINGS LIKE A STEAM ROLLER.
I FEEL TER-RIBLE. I FEEL RESPON-SIBLE.
BUT SHOJI DIDN'T DO ANYTHING, 'CAUSE HE AGREED WITH YOU.
IF NANA WANTED TO KNOW, SHE WOULD'VE ASKED HIM.
SHE'S GOT DISTANCE NOW, SO THAT'S WHY SHE CAN THINK THIS WAY NOW.
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT.
YOU'RE RIGHT...
BUT I NEED TO TRY TO STAY OUT OF PEOPLE'S RELATION-SHIP WOES.
I DON'T WANT TO TURN INTO SOME NOSY OLD LADY.
YEAH, THAT'S WHAT YOU'VE BEEN ACT-ING LIKE LATELY.

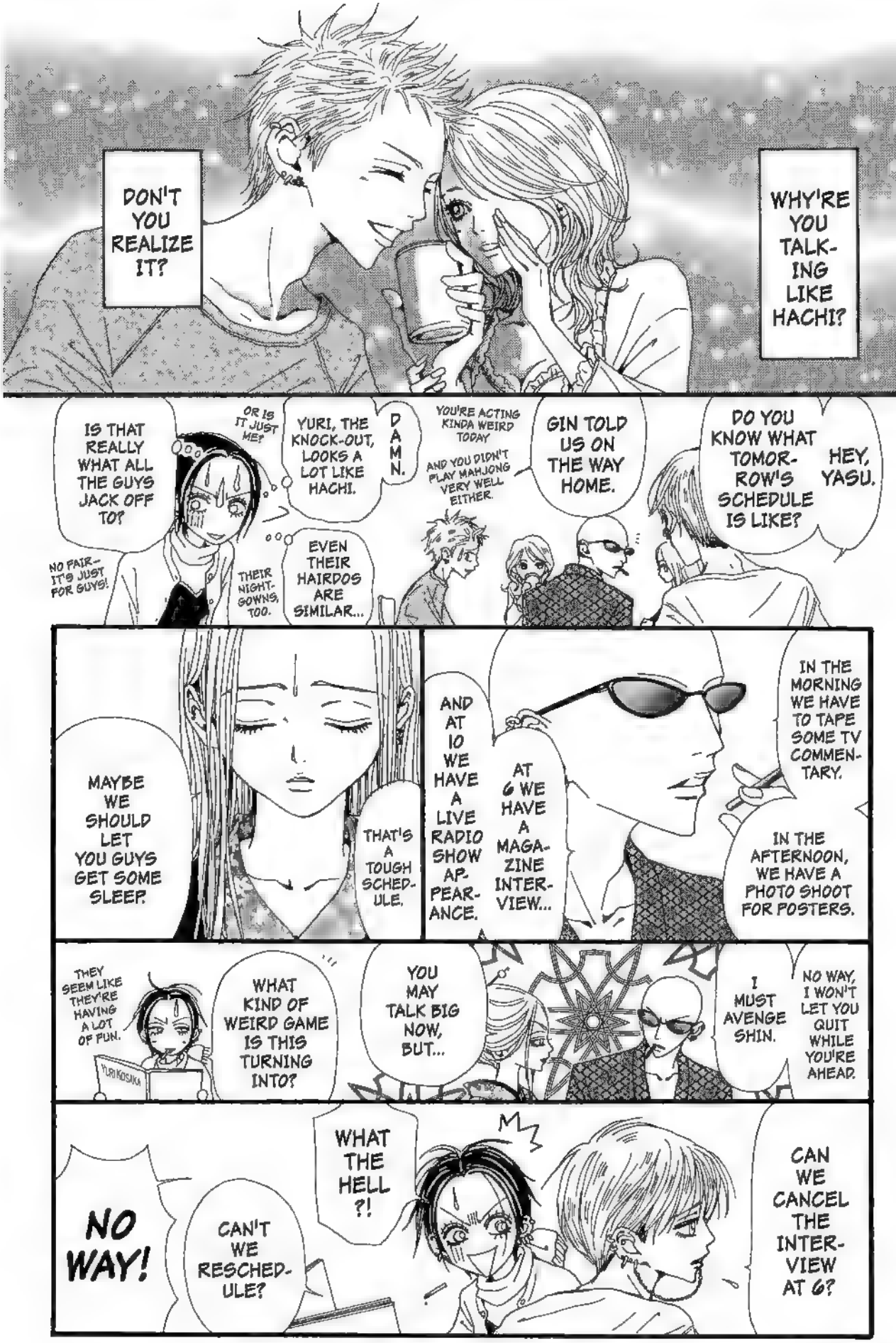
HEY!
KYOSUKE-JUNKO... YOU'RE HERE!♡
hee hee
WHEN YOU SAY THEIR NAMES TOGETHER, IT'S LIKE A JOINT VENTURE.
LIKE DAISUKE-HANAKO.*
*A famous husband-wife comedy team.
Ding dong
.....
JUST 'CAUSE YOU'RE A CRAZY OLD MAN!
WELCOME! ♡
I RARELY SEE YOU HERE, SACHI.
WERE YOU TALKING SMACK AGAIN?
INSANE.
SPEAK OF THE DEVIL.
SHOJI!
YOU JUST BLOW MONEY WHILE SACHIKO PENNY PINCHES?!
AND YOU CHANGED YOUR HAIR AGAIN!
FANCY PANTS! HOW MUCH DID IT COST?!
I TOOK HIM TO THE SALON.
SORRY.
BUT HE REALLY NEEDED IT.
DON'T LISTEN TO THAT NOSY OLD LADY.
I JUST GOT PAID, SO I FIGURED I'D LIVE IT UP.
TRUE. ♡

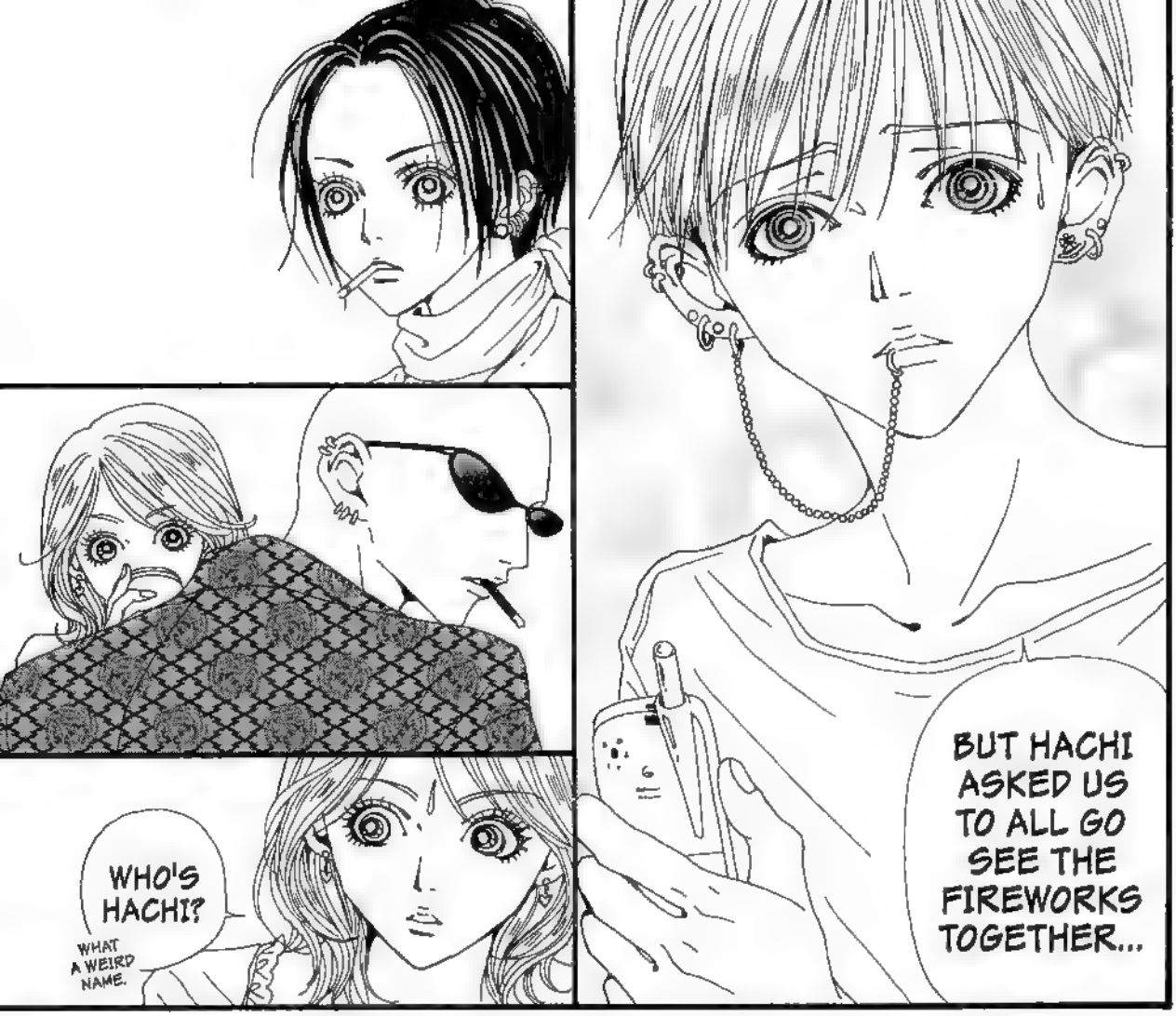
...DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE FIREWORKS FESTIVAL AT THE TAMA RIVER TOMORROW NIGHT?
SO ANY-WAY...
WHAT?
FIRE-WORKS NOW?
THE ONES THEY WERE SUPPOSED TO HAVE IN THE SUMMER WERE CANCELLED 'CAUSE OF THE TYPHOON.
OH.
A LOT OF CITIZENS COMPLAINED, SO THEY DECIDED TO HAVE IT NOW.
WEIRD.
WAY TO GO, CHOPU CITY
HERE YA GO
IT STARTS AT 6:15 SHARP. IF YOU'RE FREE, LET'S ALL GO TOGETHER.
UH...
SORRY, I HAVE TO WORK.
YEAH, ME TOO.
I WOULD HAVE TAKEN THE DAY OFF IF I'D KNOWN.
IT'S JUST AS WELL... ♡
NO NOISY NUISAN-CES!
BUT NANA SEEMS TO BE FREE. SHE MIGHT WANT TO GO.
DON'T TELL HER!
WHAT IF WE SEE HER THERE?!
...
beep
I DON'T KNOW.
DEAL WITH IT.

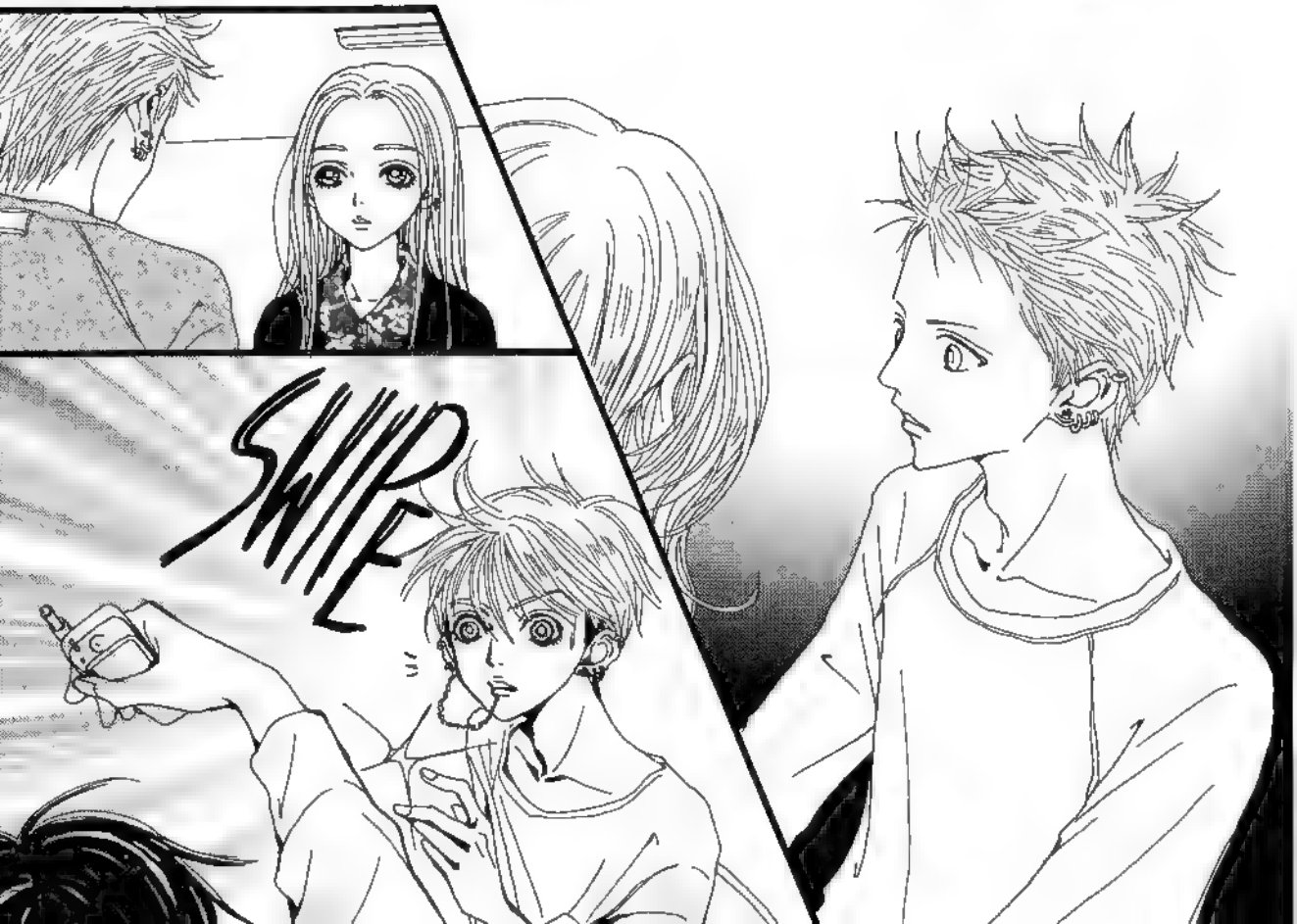

clack
RON.
JUNCHIAN RYAN-PEIKO.*
*A pretty good mahjong hand.
BEER
NOOO!
WHY'RE YOU SO GOOD, MYU?
....
OH, NO!
I DON'T KNOW.
MAYBE 'CAUSE I WAS STUDYING A MYSTERIOUS INVINCIBLE WOMAN ROLE FOR A MAHJONG MOVIE THE OTHER DAY.
I DON'T GET MUCH CAMERA TIME, BUT IT'S A BETTER ROLE THAN I EXPECTED.
THEY SHOULD MAKE A SEQUEL!
WOW.
SO YOU DO STUDY FOR ROLES.
HOW COOL.

WHAT A BABY.
DON'T LEAVE JUST 'CAUSE YOU'RE NOT WINNING.
SCOOT
THIS SUCKS.
A WHITE HOSPITAL FROCK...
THAT'S COOL, TOO.
....
CAN YOU HELP ME OUT, NOBU? ♡
IN MY NEXT VIDEO, I PLAY A NURSE AT AN ALL-BOY BOARDING SCHOOL.
I SHOULD FOLLOW HER EXAMPLE.
I DON'T GET IT, BUT WHILE YURI HITS ON NOBUO, OF ALL PEOPLE...
I'M ON A GOOD PAGE.
MAYBE LATER.
I DON'T KNOW. THE MORE YOU LEARN ABOUT YASU, THE MORE MYSTERIOUS HE GETS, SO DON'T BOTHER.
DOES YASU ALWAYS SLEEP IN THAT YUKATA?
DOES HE STARCH IT HIMSELF?
AREN'T YOU PLAYING, NANA?
YURI KOSAKA
Photography
RETALIATE FOR ME, YASU.
SO WHAT?
Hachi
October 26
Tomorrow
Ring Ring ♪
THERE'S TOO MUCH I COULD MESS WITH.
BUT WHY DOESN'T THE OTHER GIRL SAY ANYTHING?
I GOTTA STAY OUT OF IT.
NEW!
Married Woman Maid Dece
Yazawa
I GOTTA STAY CALM.
peee

.....
YOU MUST BE LONELY.
SO ...
SURE.
I GOT BRUTALLY DUMPED.
NO.
shuffle
DO YOU HAVE A GIRL-FRIEND?
NOBU ...
shuffle
shuffle
.....
What the hell, baldy?!
DECLARATION
HEY— I'M LONELY TOO, YURI!
...
I WANT TO COMFORT YOU. ♡
SQUIRT
No way!
THREE-SOMES ARE GOOD. ♡
DOWN, GIRL!
JUST KID-DING!
hee hee
NO WAY!
.....
HEY, NOBUO.


DON'T YOU REALIZE IT?
WHY'RE YOU TALK-ING LIKE HACHI?
IS THAT REALLY WHAT ALL THE GUYS JACK OFF TO?
NO FAIR— IT'S JUST FOR GUYS!
OR IS IT JUST ME?
YURI, THE KNOCK-OUT, LOOKS A LOT LIKE HACHI.
D A M N.
THEIR NIGHT-GOWNS, TOO.
EVEN THEIR HAIRDOS ARE SIMILAR...
YOU'RE ACTING KINDA WEIRD TODAY
AND YOU DIDN'T PLAY MAHJONG VERY WELL EITHER.
GIN TOLD US ON THE WAY HOME.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT TOMOR-ROW'S SCHEDULE IS LIKE?
HEY, YASU.
MAYBE WE SHOULD LET YOU GUYS GET SOME SLEEP.
THAT'S A TOUGH SCHED-ULE.
AND AT 10 WE HAVE A LIVE RADIO SHOW AP-PEAR-ANCE.
AT 6 WE HAVE A MAGA-ZINE INTER-VIEW...
IN THE MORNING WE HAVE TO TAPE SOME TV COMMEN-TARY.
IN THE AFTERNOON, WE HAVE A PHOTO SHOOT FOR POSTERS.
THEY SEEM LIKE THEY'RE HAVING A LOT OF FUN.
YURI KOSAKA
WHAT KIND OF WEIRD GAME IS THIS TURNING INTO?
YOU MAY TALK BIG NOW, BUT...
I MUST AVENGE SHIN.
NO WAY, I WON'T LET YOU QUIT WHILE YOU'RE AHEAD.
NO WAY!
CAN'T WE RESCHED-ULE?
WHAT THE HELL ?!
CAN WE CANCEL THE INTER-VIEW AT 6?


BUT HACHI ASKED US TO ALL GO SEE THE FIREWORKS TOGETHER...
WHO'S HACHI?
WHAT A WEIRD NAME.


SWIPE

The Fireworks Festival that got cancelled last summer 'cuz of the typhoon got rescheduled for 6:15 tomorrow at the Tama River.
It feels like a dream... I can't help wishing that we could all go together.
But that's just a dream, right?
NOBUO!
NO, YOU GOT WORK TO DO, RIGHT?
HIS EX?
CALM DOWN.
NANA.
I MEAN, WE'RE GOING!
YOU'LL GO, RIGHT?
WAIT—
ISN'T IT RISKY TO BE OUT IN THE CROWDS WITH THE WHOLE BAND TOGETHER?
YOU'LL REALLY STICK OUT.
BUT ...
WITH A MAGA-ZINE INTER-VIEW, IF YOU ASK, YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO RE-SCHEDULE IT.

SHIN!
WRITE HER BACK QUICK!
WHAT SHOULD I WRITE?
BUT...
CHANGE YOUR CLOTHES, MAKEUP, WEAR WIGS.
IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT IF THEY GO IN DISGUISE.
Ha!
I'D DIE TO SEE THAT.
THAT'D BE HOT.
LIKE AN AFRO WIG.
WIGS?!
IT'S BEEN ALMOST TWO MONTHS. THOSE PESKY MOSQUITOES WON'T BE HANGING AROUND THERE ANYMORE.
"MEET AT 6 O'CLOCK AT ROOM 707."

Ring!

S Re: Tomorrow
We'll be waiting in Room 707 at 6. Everyone will be going. I hope the weather's clear this time.
Back
Scroll
Menu
WE CAN ALL LAUGH AND BE TOGETHER LIKE THAT DAY.
WE CAN DO THINGS OVER AGAIN.
PLEASE LET ME DO THINGS OVER AGAIN.
IT'S NOT A DREAM, HACHI.

...AND REWRITE THE SCRIPT TO OUR BRIGHT FUTURE TOGETHER.
LET'S GO BACK TO THAT SUMMER DAY...
I HAVE TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT SOME-THING.
WHAT?
HMMM?
click
clack
click
UM, TAKUMI.
I'M GONNA ...
GOD-DAMMIT! IT CRASHED!
SMASH

I'M BEAT ...
Whoosh
SOME-THING'S COMING OUT OF YOUR BODY.
YOUR SOUL?
I NEED TO GO HOME...
YOUR HOME IS HERE, DUDE.
GET BACK HERE!
THIS ROOM OF MACHINES SUCKS OUT MY SOUL!
MY PLACE IN SHIRO-GANE IS MY HOME!
EVEN IF IT BECOMES MORE LIKE A FAIRY TALE EVERY DAY!
BUT YOU HAVE TO DO IT NOW.
AND YOU HAVE OTHER WORK, TOO.
OTHER-WISE YOU'LL MISS THE MONDAY DEAD-LINE.
I KNOW, I KNOW!
WHY DO I HAVE TO REMIX A SONG FROM OUR FIRST ALBUM FOR A STUPID COMMERCIAL?
WHY CAN'T THEY JUST USE IT AS-IS?
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO TOLD THE CLIENT THAT WOULD BE BORING.
SO WHAT DID YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT?
DOES IT HAVE TO BE NOW?
WELL, IT MIGHT BE BETTER IF IT WASN'T.
AM I SEEING THINGS?
THIS IS SERIOUSLY BAD.

... (
JUST GO SMOKE YOUR JOINT IN THE BATH-ROOM.
SHUT UP, JUNKIE.
I DO HAVE ONE QUESTION.
... WELL...
WHAT KIND OF RING DID YOU GET FOR HACHIKO, AND WHERE'D YOU BUY IT?
Slide
HEY, HACHI...

WE HAVE SUCH DIFFERENT STYLES AND TASTE.

WE NEVER IMAGINED THERE'D BE A DAY...

...WHEN WE'D BOTH WEAR THE SAME SYMBOL OF LOVE AT THE SAME TIME.

YOU'RE FICKLE AND CRAVE NEW THINGS.

I HOPE THAT EVEN NOW...

...YOU STILL TREASURE THIS RING THAT MEANS SO MUCH IN SO MANY WAYS.

I THOUGHT I'D HAVE NO PROBLEM SUP-PORTING HACHI AND HER CHILD

WE ARE NO LONGER AN INSIG-NIFICANT AMATEUR BAND.

THE ROYALTIES FROM CD SALES...

OUR HUGE ADVANCE FROM THE RECORD LABEL...

OUR MONTHLY SALARY FROM THE AGENCY...

CAT
NANA
[Chapter 41]

Rrrriiinnngg
Rrrriiinnngg
Rrrriiinnngg

click
FLIP
zzz——...
THESE DORM WALLS ARE SO THIN.
SILENCE
.....

splash
stumble
....
...AND WENT TO BED AFTER I MADE SURE SHE WAS SAFELY ASLEEP.
GOOD NIGHT! LET'S PLAY AGAIN!
YOU DON'T TOUCH HER!
FINE.
I'M FINE, I'M FINE. HEH HEH.
I CARRIED YURI, WASTED AND STAG-GERING, BACK TO HER ROOM...
WE PLAYED MAHJONG IN THE SECOND FLOOR REC. ROOM 'TIL DAWN...
WE LOST MISERABLY.
RON!
fth Ha Ha
WE SUR-REN-DER.
SHE'S GOOD.

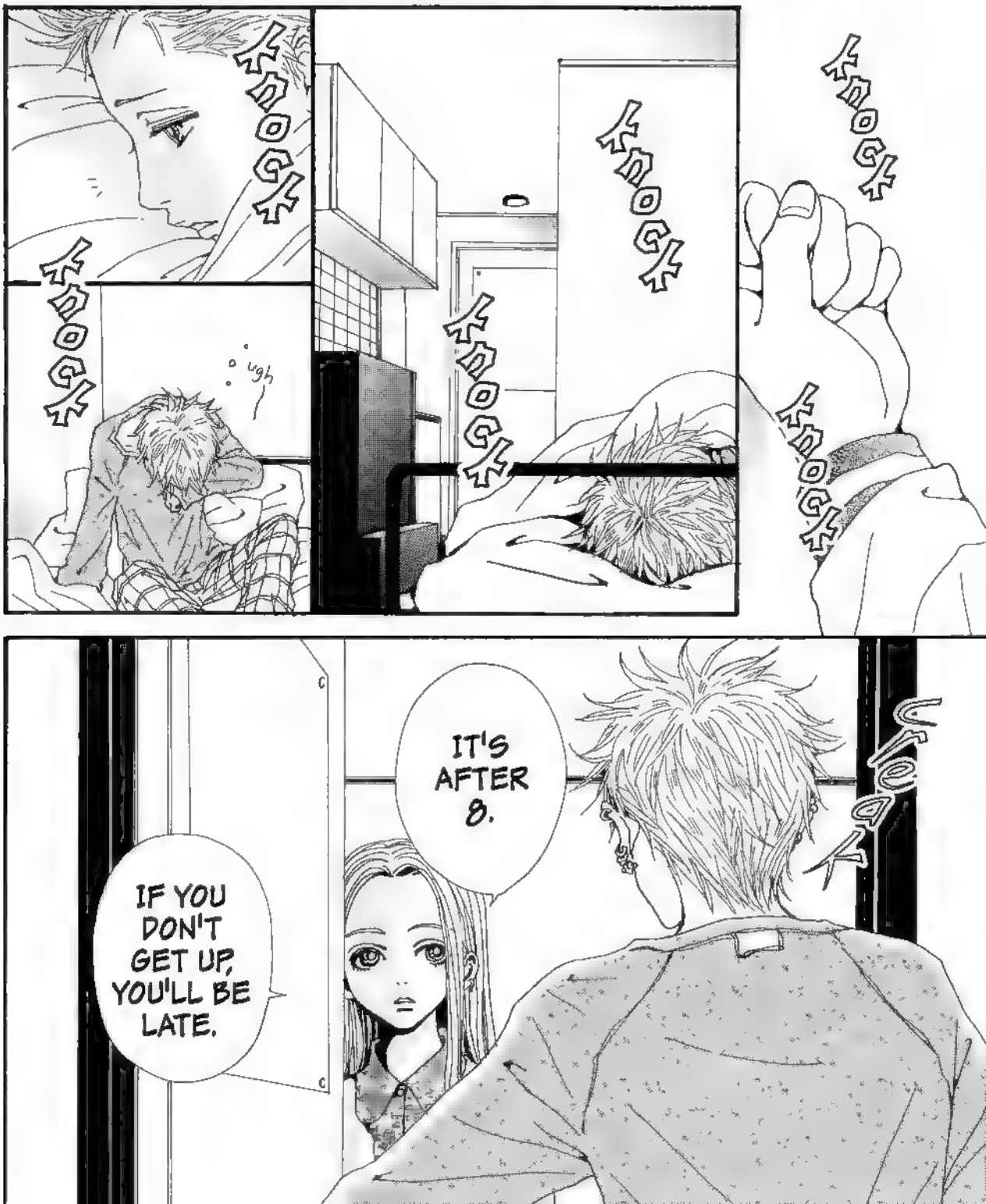
SILENCE
sigh

I WANT HIM TO STILL LIKE HACHI.
I WANT HIM TO ONLY THINK ABOUT HACHI.
flomp
BUT I CAN'T SAY SELFISH THINGS LIKE THAT ANYMORE.
NOBU'S JUST LIKE THAT.
EVEN IF THEY JUST SLEPT TOGETHER, HE'D BE OVERCOME WITH AFFECTION.
I CAN'T LET HER DO ANY-THING WITH NOBU RIGHT NOW.

PLEASE LET NOBUO AND HACHIKO GET BACK TOGETHER.

602

SO GOD, BUDDHA, DEMON LORD, WHOEVER...



UH...
IT WAS GOING OFF.
WHAT? OH? MY ALARM CLOCK ...
OH, SORRY!
DOES IT WAKE YOU UP EVERY MORN-ING?
I MEAN, AM I TOO LOUD?
UH, YEAH.
THAT'S WHY I'M SLEEPING A LOT BETTER THESE DAYS.
WAS SHE BEING SARCAS-TIC?
MAY-BE.
I HOPE YOU DON'T MOVE DOWN THERE, TOO.
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE LIVING ON THE FOURTH FLOOR.
WHY DO YOU THINK I RAN AWAY FROM ROOM 603 AFTER JUST ONE NIGHT?
.....

YEAH.
ARE YOU GOING TO THE FIRE-WORKS FESTI-VAL?
WHAT'RE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT TODAY, NOBU?
I HAVEN'T SEEN ANY-ONE.
WHAT ABOUT THE THIRD FLOOR? IS ANYONE LIVING DOWN THERE?
10
WHAT ?
NO...
YOU'RE GOING TO GET HACHI BACK!
I DON'T WANT TO STEAL HER BACK BY STEALING HER HAP-PINESS.
IF SHE LOOKS HAPPY, THEN I CAN ACCEPT IT.
WE NEED TO SEE EACH OTHER TO KNOW.
NO, BUT ...
COWARD.

BUT IF SHE SEEMS LONELY ...
...I WON'T BE ABLE TO JUST LET IT BE.
I KNOW MY-SELF.
MILK
WHAT'RE YOU DOING ?!
NO!
YOU CAN'T JUST CANCEL AN INTERVIEW AT THE LAST MINUTE 'CAUSE OF PERSONAL CRAP!

MIKA AND MASARU SAID THEY'D HELP US GO IN DISGUISE.
WE GOT THAT COVERED.
YOU THINK YOU CAN USE OUR PROFESSIONAL HAIR AND MAKEUP ARTIST AND STYLIST FOR YOUR PERSONAL BUSINESS?!
NO WAY!
ABSOLUTELY NOT!
WE'RE ONLY ASKING TO RESCHEDULE IT.
NO ONE SAID TO CANCEL IT!
I CAN'T JUST LET YOU LOOSE IN A BIG CROWD LIKE THE FIREWORKS FESTIVAL.
I WONDER WHAT THEY'RE GOING TO DO TO US?
MORE THAN FOR THE POSTER SHOOT, THAT'S FOR SURE.
BUT WHEN WE CALLED AND ASKED THEM, THEY SEEMED REALLY INTO IT...
FINE.
NO! NO! NO!
....
WHAT THE HELL?!
....
IF THAT'S IT, THEN WE'LL JUST TAKE OFF AND DO WHAT WE WANT.

HEY, GIN, LISTEN TO ME...
MY SING-ING SUCKS ?!
IF NANA'S BEING THIS PERSIS-TENT...
...YOU HAVE TO REALIZE HOW IMPORTANT THIS MUST BE TO HER.
YOU HAVE A TERRIBLE PERSONALITY, AND YOUR SINGING SUCKS, BUT I LIKED THE FACT THAT YOU WERE GUNG-HO ABOUT YOUR WORK.
NANA, YOU'RE BRING-ING ME DOWN.
YASU...

MON-DAY?
NO PROB-LEM.
WE STILL GOT PROOFING AND OTHER STUFF TO WORK ON.
OH, SURE, SURE.
NOW I CAN FINISH PLAYING MY GAME AND RETURN TO SOCIETY THEN.
Ha Ha Ha
Kenichi Kaneda
Journalist, 32, single

WHAT THE—?!
AS SOON AS I CAN GET IN TOUCH WITH THE MAGAZINE, I'LL DISCUSS IT WITH THEM.
IF YOU SAY SO, YASU, IT MUST BE REALLY IMPOR-TANT.
ALL RIGHT ...
WHY'S HE SO IN LOVE WITH YASU?!

beep
WHAT DID THEY SAY?
THEY WEREN'T VERY HAPPY...
...BUT THEY'LL RESCHEDULE IT SOMEHOW.
.....
Yay!
SORRY, GIN.
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
I'M NOT A MONSTER.
GO WATCH THE FIREWORKS AND RELAX. IT'LL BE A GOOD STRESS RELIEVER.
THAT'D BE ESPECIALLY GOOD FOR YOU, NANA.
I GUESS IT'S 'CAUSE WE WENT TO BAND BOOT CAMP AND NOW SPEND EVERY DAY TOGETHER LIVING IN THE DORMS.
OUR BAND HAS BECOME LIKE A FAMILY.

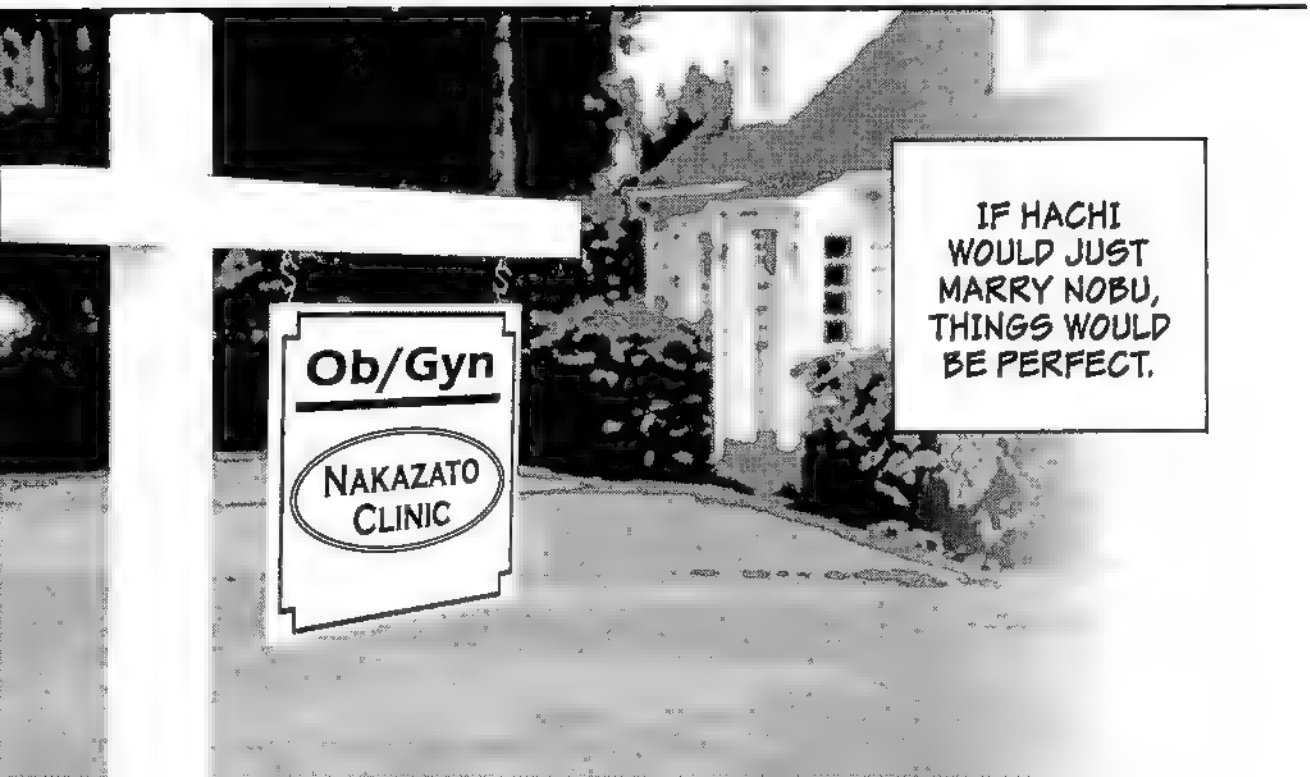
I ALWAYS WANTED A BIG FAMILY LIKE THE ONES ON TV.
THIS ISN'T TOO BAD.
IF IT'S THE PRESIDENT, WE'D BE LIKE A YAKUZA FAMILY.
SO WHO'S THE DADDY?
THAT WOULD SUCK.
BETTER THAN THE FOX.
LET'S MAKE IT THE RACCOON ...
I'M PART OF THIS FAMILY, SO I CAN DEPEND ON THEM AS MUCH AS I WANT.
YASU'S THE RELIABLE ELDEST SON, NOBU'S THE MILD-MANNERED SECOND SON, AND SHIN'S THE BRATTY BABY.
GINPEI IS LIKE A STRONG MOTHER TYPE.
WHY AM I THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN'T SMOKE?!
STOP SMOKING!
IS THIS A BOY VERSION OF THE KOMATSU FAMILY?
UGH....
IF YASU QUITS, MAYBE SHIN WILL TOO.

BUT THESE DAYS, I'M PRETTY HAPPY.

REN ALWAYS SAYS I'M ALL GLOOM AND DOOM.

...I'LL STOP THINKING SO NEGATIVELY.

EVEN IF MARRYING REN DOESN'T GO THE WAY I WANT...



THE BABY'S DEVELOPING FINE.
YOU'RE IN YOUR 14TH WEEK OF PREGNANCY.
I SHOWED YOU THE PHOTO WHERE YOU CAN'T TELL.
REALLY?
THE BABY'S SEX CAN BE GUESSED AT THIS POINT, TOO.
....
THAT'S QUICK!
OR DO YOU WANT TO WAIT UNTIL THE BABY'S BORN?
DO YOU WANT TO KNOW?
IT'S STILL ONLY AN ESTIMATE.
WHY DON'T YOU TALK IT OVER WITH YOUR FAMILY AND THINK ABOUT IT?
BUT WAITING MIGHT BE MORE FUN...
I WANT TO KNOW...
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
HEH HEH
thump thump thump
OKAY.
.....
EAT A BALANCED DIET BUT NOT TOO MUCH.
IF YOU GAIN TOO MUCH WEIGHT, YOU'RE MORE AT RISK FOR GESTOSIS AND OTHER CONDITIONS.
BUT I'M WORRIED ABOUT YOUR SUDDEN INCREASE IN WEIGHT.
IT'S GOOD THAT YOU GOT OVER YOUR MORNING SICKNESS QUICKLY...

I MEAN, IT'S NOT LIKE I WANT TO GAIN WEIGHT.
waddle waddle
I ATE TOO MUCH FOR LUNCH, SO I WON'T EAT ANY-THING AT THE FIRE-WORKS FESTIVAL.
gurgle gurgle
DID YOU SAY SOME-THING, SACHIKO ?
WHAT ?
YOU WANT A JACKSON BURGER ?
I DON'T KNOW, I HAVE A BAD FEEL-ING ABOUT GOING THERE.
JACKSON HOLE
MAYBE I SHOULDN'T GO TO THE FIREWORKS FESTIVAL...

IT WOULD BE WORSE IF YOU DON'T TAKE HER THERE 'CAUSE YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT THAT.
THAT'S WHY I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO!
God-damn Junko!
ding
OOPS.
WEL-COME!
BUT WHAT IF I DO RUN INTO HER?
THERE'LL BE SO MANY PEOPLE DOWN THERE, I DOUBT YOU'D RUN INTO EACH OTHER.
OH ...
I MEAN, FORGET ABOUT ME, BUT IT'D BE BAD FOR SACHIKO.
OUR NIGHT WOULD BE RUINED.

HEY NANA...
LONG TIME NO SEE, KOICHI SATO!
EEEk—♡

THE DIVINE GUIDANCE OF THE DEMON LORD.
I KNEW IT.
Step
YES MA'AM.
HAVE FUN...
A JACKSON BURGER AND FRESH ORANGE JUICE, PLEASE! ♡
BECAUSE SACHIKO SAID SHE'S HUNGRY.
WELL IF HE WARNED YOU, WHY'D YOU COME?!
THEN DON'T!
I DON'T WANT TO NAME HER THAT!
I DON'T KNOW!
EH?!
WHY'D YOU HAVE TO NAME THE BABY THAT?!
MY BABY. ♡
SACHI-KO?
I'M FOUR MONTHS PREG-NANT. ♡
MY HUSBAND INSISTS ON NAMING HER SACHIKO.
TAKUMI FROM TRAP-NEST?
YOUR HUS-BAND ...

SO IT'S TRUE!
JUN, YOU BIG-MOUTH!
!
NO, IT'S ALL RIGHT.
I WON'T TELL ANY-ONE.
I VOW BY THE DEMON LORD.
I PROM-ISE.
I PROM-ISE, SO...
CAN YOU GET ME REIRA'S AUTO-GRAPH ?
ARE YOU EVEN A FAN ?
I COULD KEEP IT AT MY PARENTS' PLACE AND MAKE IT A FAMILY HEIRLOOM.
I BET MY GRANDMA'D THANK IT AND PRAY TO IT EVERY DAY.
MAYBE SHE'LL LIVE LONGER.
GIVE ME A BREAK.
I GUESS I COULD ASK...
BUT SHE'S REALLY BUSY, SO I DON'T KNOW.
YOU'RE FRIENDS WITH HER?!

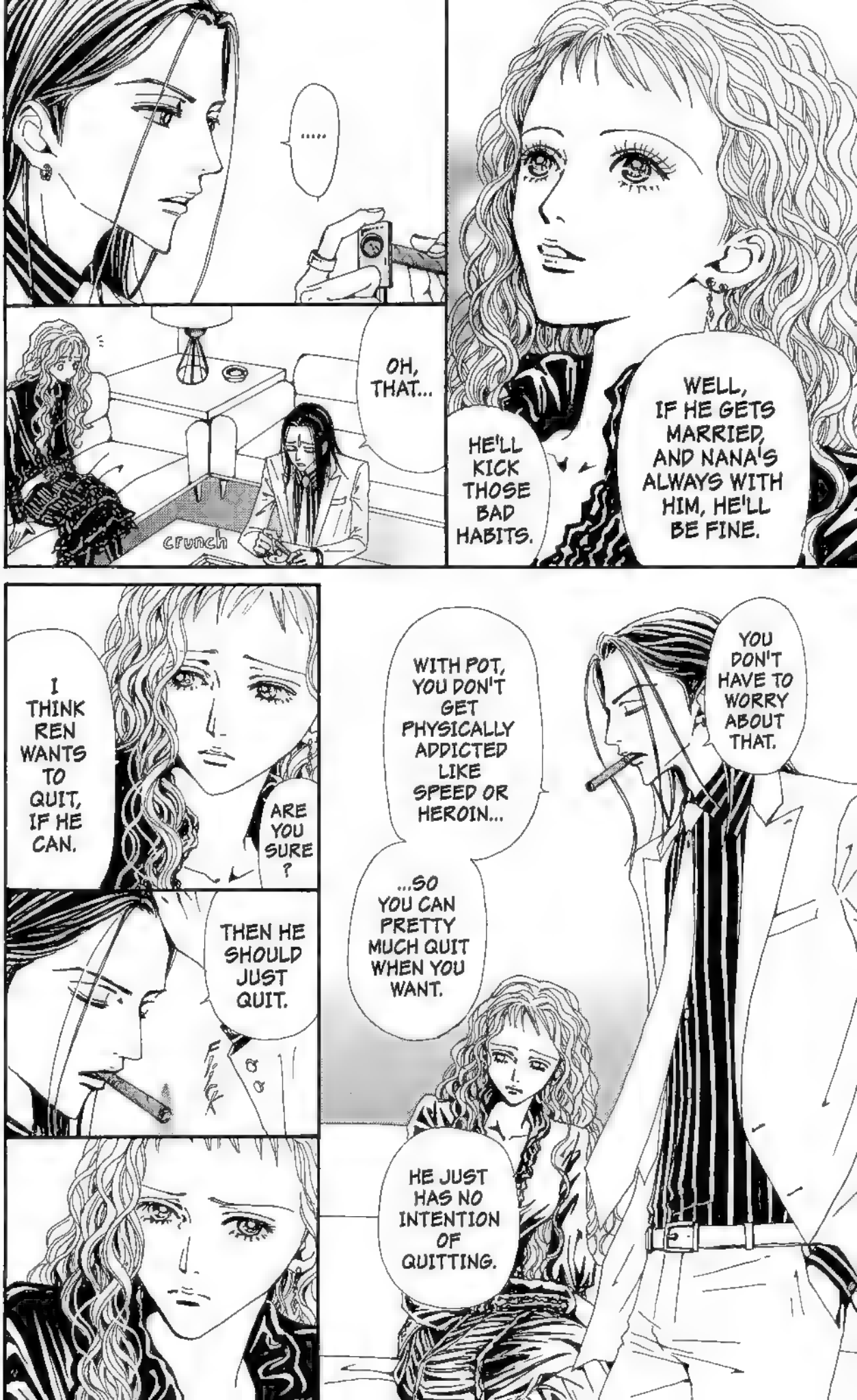
I'LL THINK OF YOU AS A CELEBRITY FROM NOW ON.
UNTIL RECENTLY, YOU WERE JUST A COMMON HICK.
I'M IM-PRESSED, NANA.
SORT OF.
IN YOUR WORLD, TO BE SUCCESSFUL, HUMBLE, AND SECURE ISN'T ENOUGH.
NOW I GET IT.
BUT NOW THAT THINGS HAVE TURNED OUT THIS WAY, I CAN SEE HOW YOUR SELF-CENTERED RECKLESS-NESS IS A TALENT.
I'M JUST A NORMAL PREGNANT LADY.
DON'T BOTHER.
.....
BONK
GO FOR THE GOLD, BEING JUST THE WAY YOU ARE!
CONGRAT-ULATIONS, SUPER-STAR!
YOU'RE ACT-ING ANNOY-ING.
....
IS THERE NO LIMIT TO HOW MUCH YOU DON'T KNOW YOUR OWN PLACE?
HONK
UM, TAKE?

REN WANTS TO MARRY NANA.
WHAT ?!
THEY'RE GETTING MARRIED ?!
YOU CONVINCED HIM, TAKUMI.
REALLY ?
NO... I DIDN'T HAVE TO SAY ANYTHING.
HE DOESN'T SEEM TO HAVE ANY ULTERIOR MOTIVES.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
THAT'S GOOD.
THAT'S THE BEST WAY.
HE'S OUT BUYING HER A RING...
...SO WE HAVE TO LET THEM HOOK UP, SO HE CAN GIVE IT TO HER QUICK.
....
YEAH... THAT'S TRUE.
EVEN NANA WILL PROBABLY ACCEPT THAT RING HAPPILY.
THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT ANYMORE.

AS IF I'M THE EVIL ONE WHO DITCHED YOU!
GOOD THING YOU DIDN'T STICK WITH A GUY LIKE ME.
GOOD FOR YOU, SUPER-STAR.
I PROB-ABLY WON'T BE ABLE TO BUY ONE LIKE THAT IN A LIFE-TIME.
GIVE ME A BREAK.
THAT'S A REALLY BIG ROCK YOU HAVE THERE.
YOU CHEATED ON ME, YOU IDIOT!
YOU HAD ME WRAPPED AROUND YOUR FINGER, AND IN THE END YOU SAID "I DON'T WANT YOU." WAS I JUST YOUR TOY?
BUT IT'S TRUE.
What's your prob-lem?!
WELL YOU'RE BEING THAT WAY, SO I'M JUST REACT-ING BACK...
HOW CAN YOU BE SO INDIGNANT AND CALLOUS ABOUT IT?
BUT IT'S IN THE PAST, RIGHT?
SORRY...
SO YOU THINK YOU CAN APOLOGIZE NOW AND GET AWAY WITH IT?
I KNOW ...
I'M SORRY.
NO, I DON'T THINK I EVER SAID THAT, NOT EVEN ONCE.
YOU TOLD ME SO MANY TIMES THAT YOU LOVED ME, BUT IT WAS ALL A LIE.

YOU DID TOO!
I HEARD YOU SAY IT!
NO I DIDN'T!
I'M NOT LYING!
YOU KNOW I CAN'T LIE!
THAT'S WHY YOU FOUND OUT RIGHT AWAY I WAS HAVING AN AFFAIR, 'CAUSE I BLURTED IT OUT!
.....
"RIGHT AWAY"?
YOU TELL ME EVERY-THING NOW.
WHY'D YOU DO IT?
I JUST GAVE IN TO TEMPTATION.
MAYBE I WAS TEMPTED BY THE DEMON LORD?
THERE WAS AN OVERLAP OF ABOUT TWO WEEKS.
BACK OFF, SATO...
IF YOU REMEMBER TOO MANY DETAILS ABOUT YOUR CUSTO-MERS' LOVE LIVES, YOU'RE GONNA GET OFFED SOME DAY.
TWO WEEKS ...
ONLY TWO WEEKS ?
WHAT A BORING GUY.
WHAT-EVER, SUPER-STAR!
Ah Ha Ha Ha

YOU CHANGED MY OPINION OF YOU.
COOKIE MUSIC
TRAPNES
AND HOW'S THAT?
YOU WERE ACTUALLY THINKING OF REN, ABOUT HIS NEEDS. ♡
OF COURSE. I WORRY ABOUT HIM WAY MORE THAN YOU DO.
I WAS SERIOUSLY WORRIED ABOUT HIM.
I'VE BEEN MAKING HIM LUNCH.
HUH ?
WHAT ?


.....
OH, THAT...
crunch
WELL, IF HE GETS MARRIED, AND NANA'S ALWAYS WITH HIM, HE'LL BE FINE.
HE'LL KICK THOSE BAD HABITS.
I THINK REN WANTS TO QUIT, IF HE CAN.
ARE YOU SURE?
THEN HE SHOULD JUST QUIT.
flick
WITH POT, YOU DON'T GET PHYSICALLY ADDICTED LIKE SPEED OR HEROIN...
...SO YOU CAN PRETTY MUCH QUIT WHEN YOU WANT.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT.
HE JUST HAS NO INTENTION OF QUITTING.

BUT SOME THINGS YOU CAN'T QUIT EVEN WHEN YOU WANT TO.
I NEVER SHOULD HAVE STARTED SMOKING. I JUST THOUGHT I WAS REBELLING OR SOMETHING.
NICOTINE IS HIGHLY PHYSICALLY ADDICTIVE, SO IT'S MUCH HARDER TO QUIT.
YOU HAVEN'T QUIT SMOKING, EVEN THOUGH YOU SAY YOU'RE GOING TO QUIT FOR THE BABY.
BUT PSYCHOLOGICAL DEPENDENCY IS ALSO AN ADDICTION!
YOU SHOULD TAKE IT SERIOUSLY!
DON'T YELL AT ME!
IF HE GETS ARRESTED, THE BAND'S FINISHED.
I'M IN A BIND, TOO.
IF HE DOESN'T QUIT, HE AT LEAST HAS TO HIDE IT SO NO ONE FINDS OUT.
DON'T CREATE A SCENE.
CAN YOU FOR ONCE THINK ABOUT *REN* AND NOT JUST THE BAND?!
NO, I CAN'T.
THAT'S NOT MY JOB.
SO THAT'S WHY YOU WANT HIM TO GET MARRIED ?

knock knock
....
YEAH ?
HE'S GOT A PROBLEM, SO YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE NANA CLEAN IT UP.
THAT'S NOT IT.
THAT'S A WHOLE 'NOTHER ISSUE.
Creak
OH, HI, MR. NARITA.
JUMP
WHAD-DYA THINK ?
I DYED IT BLONDE! ♡
Mitsuru Narita, 46
Cookie Music Agency
Trapnest's A&R guy

I HAVE NO BUSINESS WITH YOU.
AFTER THAT, WE'RE HAVING DINNER WITH THE CLIENT.
WE HAVE A MEETING WITH THE AGENCY ABOUT REIRA DOING A COMMERCIAL.
SEXUAL HARASSMENT!
WHAT ARE YOU HERE FOR TODAY?
REIRA!
DON'T TALK LIKE THAT TO THE PRESIDENT.
....
IT LOOKS WEIRD ON AN OLD GUY.
I ONLY CARE ABOUT SINGING.
YOU'D BE THE ENVY OF GIRLS EVEN MORE.
AH, THE MAKE-UP COMMERCIAL.
THAT'S GREAT, REIRA.
JUST GIVE THEM THE PRERECORDED SONG AND BE DONE WITH IT.
DON'T WASTE ENERGY ON THINGS LIKE THAT.
YOUNG GIRLS DON'T CARE ABOUT CARS.
ARE YOU REALLY REMIXING A SONG FOR SOME DUMB CAR COMMERCIAL?
SPEAKING OF COMMERCIALS, TAKUMI ...
IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT YOU.
THEY'LL USE ONE OF OUR SONGS, TOO.
BUT IT'S NOT UPBEAT ENOUGH AS-IS.
YES.
SOME DUMB CAR COMMERCIAL?

YOU BETTER HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, SO GET IT TOGETHER.
AND I HEARD ABOUT REN FROM TAKEDA.
EVEN SO, WHO CARES?
YOU FOOL.
IF YOU GIVE SHIKAI ENOUGH MONEY, THEY'LL LISTEN.
I'LL TALK TO NANA'S AGENCY.
YOU JUST DO WHAT YOU'RE S'POSED TO DO!
I KNOW THE DEAL!
IF YOU PAY SHIKAI, THEY'LL JUST TAKE THE MONEY AND RUN.
STAY OUT OF IT!
MAYBE YOU SHOULD TALK TO GAIA IN-STEAD.
MR. NARITA ...
ISN'T SHIKAI JUST GETTING PAID BY GAIA TO TAKE CARE OF BLAST?
.....

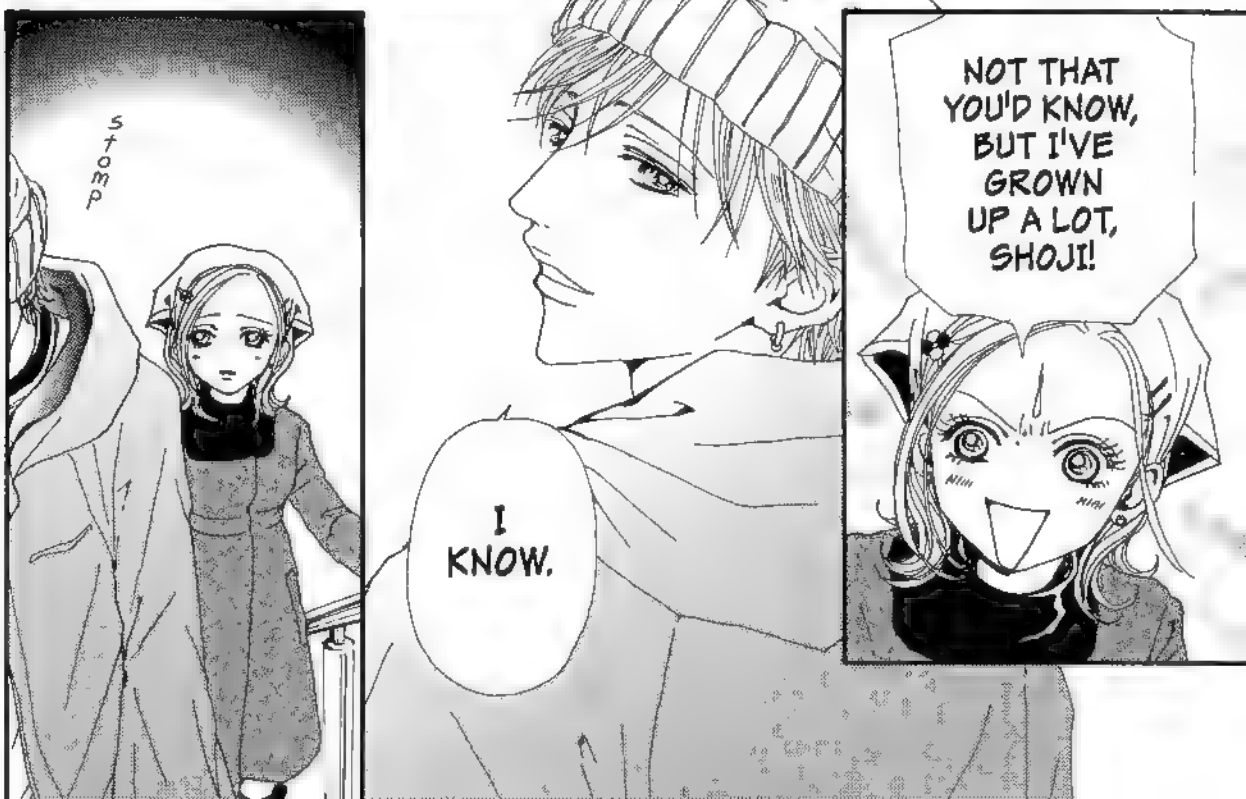
SLAM
BOOOO!
WHAT A BURN-OUT SLEAZE-BAG...
NARITA USED TO BE A GREAT MUSICIAN. HOW'D HE TURN INTO THAT?!
DOESN'T HE KNOW I HAVE TO GET INVOLVED 'CAUSE HE'S INCOMPE-TENT?!
AND WHY DOES EVEN THE PRESIDENT SUDDENLY WANT REN AND NANA TO GET MARRIED?
HE STARTED IT!
HE WANTS US TO HOLD A PRESS CONFER-ENCE SO REN CAN DEFEND NANA!
BUT WHY NOW?
BEFORE, HE KEPT SAYING TO IGNORE BLAST!
HE DOESN'T WANT IT TO LOOK LIKE REN WAS JUST USED BY HER.
HE'S WORRIED THAT BLAST WILL HIT IT BIG.
IF THEY DIDN'T SELL, THE PUBLIC WOULD JUST THINK SHE'S A HANGER-ON, AND WE'D IGNORE IT.
THEIR SINGLE WILL PROBABLY SELL MORE THAN OURS.
EVEN IF WE DON'T WANT TO COMPETE, THE MEDIA WILL SPIN IT TO LOOK LIKE TRAPNEST GOT USED, AND WE LOST.

SO BY SEALING THEIR LOVE, THE PRESIDENT WANTS TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT WE HELPED SELL BLAST.
THAT'S REALLY STUPID.
WELL, HE'S NOT THE SHARPEST TOOL IN THE SHED.
HAVING REN DEFEND NANA NOW WOULD LOOK LIKE HE'S MAKING EXCUSES.
IT'LL JUST BACKFIRE WITH THE MEDIA.
IT'D MAKE A BETTER IMPRESSION IF REN JUST SAID "HEY, WE'RE GETTING MARRIED."
THAT WOULD SATISFY NARITA, AND THIS STUPID HOO-HA WOULD BE OVER.
YOU'RE MAKING HIM GET MARRIED FOR SELF-PROTECTION.
I WAS WRONG ABOUT YOU AGAIN!
THERE'S NO RELATION BETWEEN WHAT YOU THINK ABOUT ME AND REN'S PROBLEMS!
WE'RE TALKING BUSINESS NOW!
THAT'S WHY I CAN'T STAND WOMEN!

JUST LIKE NARITA SAID, MOST OF OUR FANS ARE YOUNG GIRLS, RIGHT ON TARGET.
I DON'T THINK IT'S A GOOD IDEA FOR BOTH YOU AND REN TO GET MARRIED SO CLOSE TOGETHER.
YOU'RE DREAMING IF YOU THINK THEY LIKE US JUST FOR OUR MUSIC.
THEN THIS WOMAN'S GOING TO TALK BUSINESS, TOO!
I GET IT.
SO IF IT'S JUST REN, IT'S ACCEPT-ABLE?
IF THOSE TWO GET MARRIED, IT'S A DRAMA THAT'LL HIT HOME WITH OUR TARGET AUDIENCE.
OUR PRIORITY IS SETTLING REN'S PROBLEM FIRST, NOT MY OWN PERSONAL LIFE.

HEY, SHOJI...
WHERE'RE YOU MEETING HER?
AT THE STATION.
WHY'S SHE WORKING WHILE YOU JUST HANG AROUND, SHOJI?
IT JUST HAPPENED. I WORK A DIFFERENT SHIFT.
YOU SHOULD WORK MORE, SO SHE CAN TAKE IT EASY.
BUT WE SPLIT THE BILLS 50/50.

HMPH.
WELL, SHE'S A GOOD WIFE.
AND SHE'S NOT MY WIFE!
THAT'S NORMAL.
A SLACKER LIKE YOU WHO DEPENDS ON OTHER PEOPLE'S MONEY IS THE WEIRD ONE.
GOOD THING YOU'RE MARRYING A RICH GUY.


NOT THAT YOU'D KNOW, BUT I'VE GROWN UP A LOT, SHOJI!
I KNOW.
STOMP

JUN'S BIG MOUTH ...
WHO'RE YOU GOING TO SEE THE FIRE-WORKS WITH, NANA?
I CAN'T TELL YOU.
CELEBRITIES HAVE LOTS OF SECRETS WE CAN'T TELL THE MASSES.
Ah Ha Ha Ha
SO EVEN IF WE RUN INTO EACH OTHER THERE, DON'T SAY HI.
AND I WON'T EITHER.
NANA, I'M REALLY SORRY...

IT'S ALL RIGHT.
I HAD MY OWN ISSUES TOO.
BUT NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT...
WHAT YOU WANTED WASN'T ASKING TOO MUCH.
I HOPE IT'S ALL RIGHT TO SAY THIS...
BUT IT'S FUN TALKING TO YOU, NANA...
AND I'M HAPPY WE GOT TO TALK.

SO I PROBABLY WON'T SEE YOU AGAIN.
CELEB-RITIES HAVE TO LAY LOW.
BYE, NANA.

JUST GO NOW.
YOU GO FIRST.
WHERE ARE YOU MEETING?
I CAN'T TELL YOU.
I STILL HAVE TIME, SO I'LL WANDER AROUND HERE.
YOU LIKE WANDERING AROUND ...
...EVEN THOUGH YOU GET LOST A LOT.
I WON'T THIS TIME.
SO YOU CAN GO NOW.
BY THE WAY, WHEN'S SACHIKO GONNA BE BORN?
AWWWWW...
SHE'S DUE AT THE END OF APRIL.

THE DEMON LORD'S CHILDREN ARE ONLY BORN ON JULY 7TH.
DON'T PUT A CURSE ON MY BABY!
AND "777" IS MARKED ON THEIR HEADS.
I WISH...
SHE WILL BE BORN ON MAY 5TH!
IF THE BABY IS REALLY THE DEMON LORD'S CHILD...
.....
WITH A BIRTHDAY ON CHILDREN'S DAY, EVERYONE WILL REMEMBER IT.
THAT'D BE COOL.♡
IT'S POSSI-BLE.
WHO KNOWS?
MAYBE SHE'LL BE LATE AND SHE'LL BE BORN ON MAY 5TH!
HAVE A HEALTHY HUMAN BABY!
WELL, TAKE CARE!

BUT NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT...

...WHAT YOU WANTED WASN'T ASKING TOO MUCH

707

HACHIKO'S LATE.
NOT YET. IT'S ONLY 5:30.
SHE DOESN'T HAVE A KEY, SO SHE WON'T SHOW UP 'TIL 6.

Ah Ha Ha Ha
.....
WHAT HAPPENED TO HER KEY?
WHAT ?
PLOP
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO PUT IT ON ME FIRST!
YOU BOUGHT IT FOR ME AT "HANDS"!
GOOD THING YASU'S GOT THE PERFECT HEAD FOR WIGS! ♡
BUT WHAT IF IT SLIPS ?
MIKA AND MASARU WORKED HARD ON US. WHY'RE YOU TRYING TO RUIN IT?!
THAT WIG'S TOO WEIRD! WE CAN'T EVEN TALK TO YOU!
I DON'T WANT HER TO FALL IN LOVE WITH ME FOR THAT REASON.
HACHI WILL FALL IN LOVE WITH YOU ALL OVER AGAIN.
YOU LOOK GOOD WITH LONG HAIR, NOBU. I'M SURPRISED.
SHIN.
QUIT TALKING LIKE MISATO.
YOU'RE TOO CUTE!
SCARY.

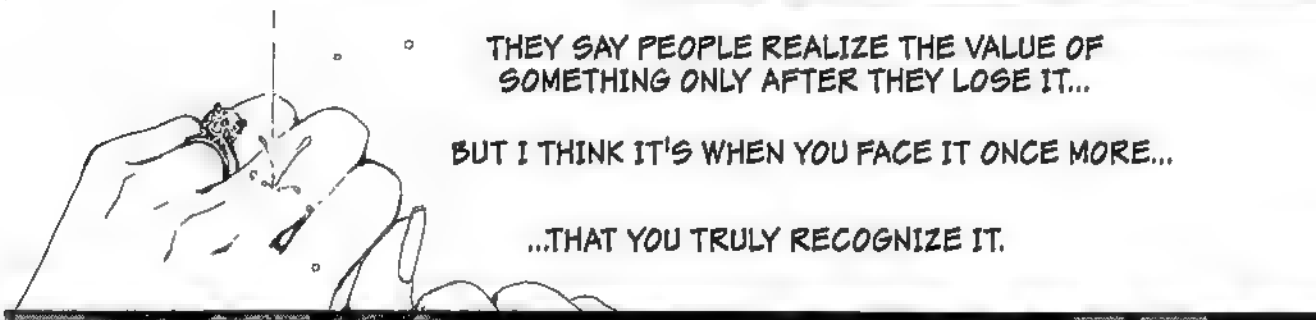
SHOJI!
MINI-SHOJI!
I WAS JUST THINKING THE SAME THING.
BUT TOO SHORT.
YOU LOOK KIND OF LIKE SHOJI.
YEAH, I CAN TOTALLY SEE IT.
BUT YOU'RE SHORT.
AND HOW TALL IS HE?
WHO'S SHOJI?
blah
blah

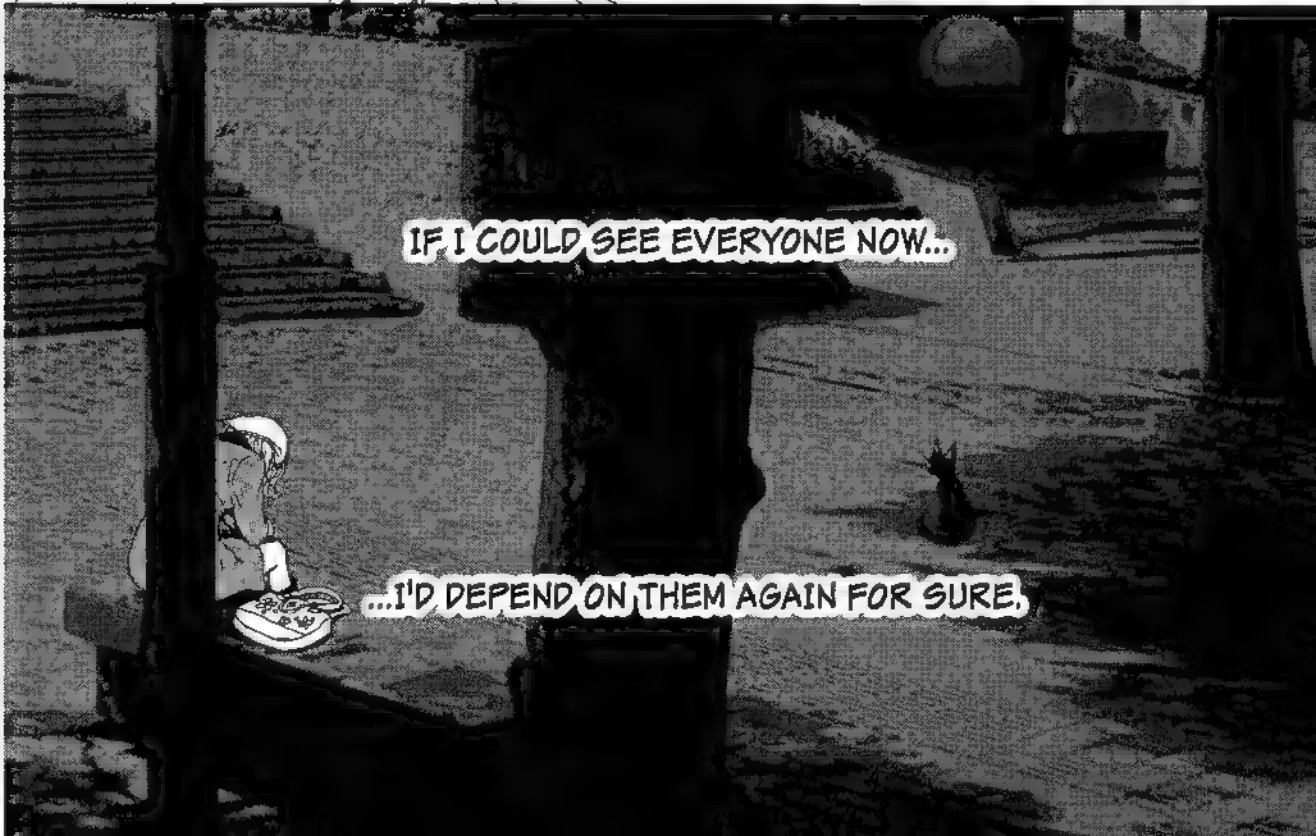
20/10
HOW'S YOUR EYE-SIGHT?
MY CONTACTS ARE BOTHER-ING ME.
IN THIS CITY, YOU DON'T WANT TO BE ABLE TO SEE MORE THAN THAT!

WHAT HAP-PENED?
YOUR EYES ARE RED.

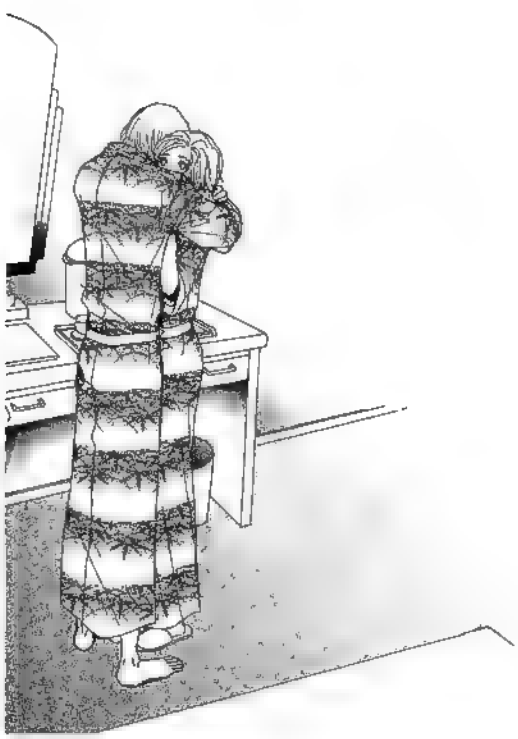
THE FURTHER THINGS ARE, THE BETTER I CAN SEE.
THE CLOSER THINGS ARE, THE MORE I LOSE SIGHT OF THEM.
I WONDER IF I'M FAR-SIGHTED.
LET'S HOLD HANDS THE WHOLE TIME, SO WE DON'T GET LOST IN THE CROWD.
AND 'CAUSE YOU'RE SO TINY
EVERY-ONE'S LIKE THAT.

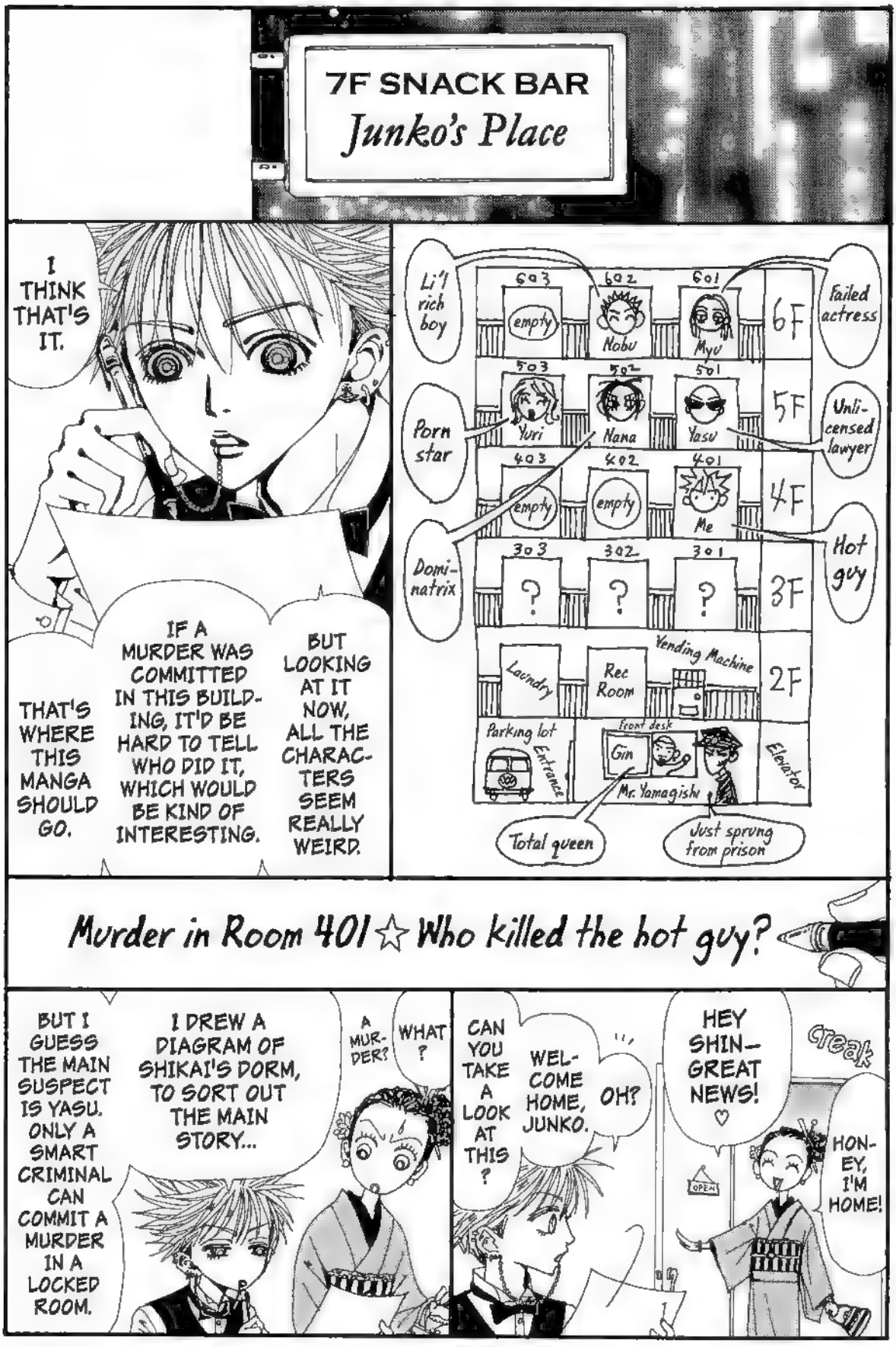
HEY, HACHI...


THEY SAY PEOPLE REALIZE THE VALUE OF SOMETHING ONLY AFTER THEY LOSE IT...
BUT I THINK IT'S WHEN YOU FACE IT ONCE MORE...
...THAT YOU TRULY RECOGNIZE IT.


IF I COULD SEE EVERYONE NOW...
...I'D DEPEND ON THEM AGAIN FOR SURE.

I'M SCARED OF THAT.
THAT'S WHY I CAN'T MOVE FROM THIS SPOT.




7F SNACK BAR
Junko's Place
I THINK THAT'S IT.
THAT'S WHERE THIS MANGA SHOULD GO.
IF A MURDER WAS COMMITTED IN THIS BUILDING, IT'D BE HARD TO TELL WHO DID IT, WHICH WOULD BE KIND OF INTERESTING.
BUT LOOKING AT IT NOW, ALL THE CHARACTERS SEEM REALLY WEIRD.
Li'l rich boy
Failed actress
Porn star
Unlicensed lawyer
Dominatrix
Hot guy
603
602
601
empty
Nobu
Myu
6F
503
502
501
Yuri
Nana
Yasu
5F
403
402
401
empty
empty
Me
4F
303
302
301
?
?
?
3F
Laundry
Rec Room
Vending Machine
2F
Parking lot Entrance
Front desk
Gin
Mr. Yamagishi
Elevator
Total queen
Just sprung from prison
Murder in Room 401☆Who killed the hot guy?
BUT I GUESS THE MAIN SUSPECT IS YASU. ONLY A SMART CRIMINAL CAN COMMIT A MURDER IN A LOCKED ROOM.
I DREW A DIAGRAM OF SHIKAI'S DORM, TO SORT OUT THE MAIN STORY...
A MURDER?
WHAT?
CAN YOU TAKE A LOOK AT THIS?
WELCOME HOME, JUNKO.
OH?
HEY SHIN—GREAT NEWS!
creak
OPEN
HONEY, I'M HOME!

I KNOW YOU'RE GETTING BORED 'CAUSE THE MAIN STORY'S DRAGGING ON, BUT IF YOU DON'T READ IT, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO SOLVE THE MYSTERY.

I PUT UP THE READERS' ILLUSTRATIONS TOO.

DON'T ASK ME.

I DON'T KNOW.

WHY WOULD YASU KILL YOU ?!

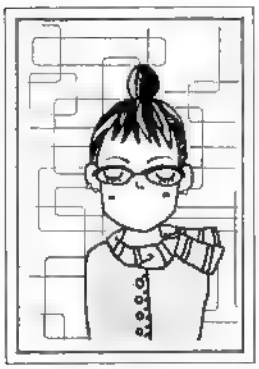
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO THE MAIN STORY PLOT ?!

WHAT THE HELL ?!

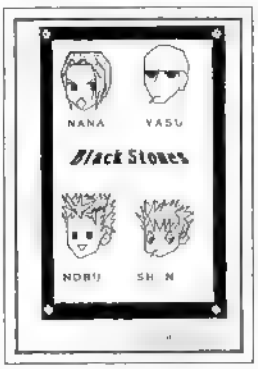
NANA Miyazaki

TETSUYA HAMADA Hyogo

KUCCHANE MASATOMO Kobe



AYUMI HAMAGUCHI Fukuoka



WHITE STONES Chiba

TOMOKO KUZUMI Saitama

BUT I HAVE TO KEEP BUSY, 'CAUSE IT'S SO DEAD IN HERE.

I KNOW.

YOU KNOW I CAN'T PAY YOU.

SO WHAT'S YOUR DEAL, SHIN? WHY'RE YOU SUCH A WORKHORSE ALL OF A SUDDEN?

SO WHAT'S THE NEWS?

IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN "THE HACHIKO SHOW," SO WE HAD IT CORRECTED IN THE 3RD EDITION.

THE MEANING'S THE SAME, BUT NANA'S ANAL, SO JUST IN CASE.

AND IN VOLUME 10 ON PAGE 134, WHERE IT SAYS "I'M THE HERO OF 'THE HACHI SHOW'"...

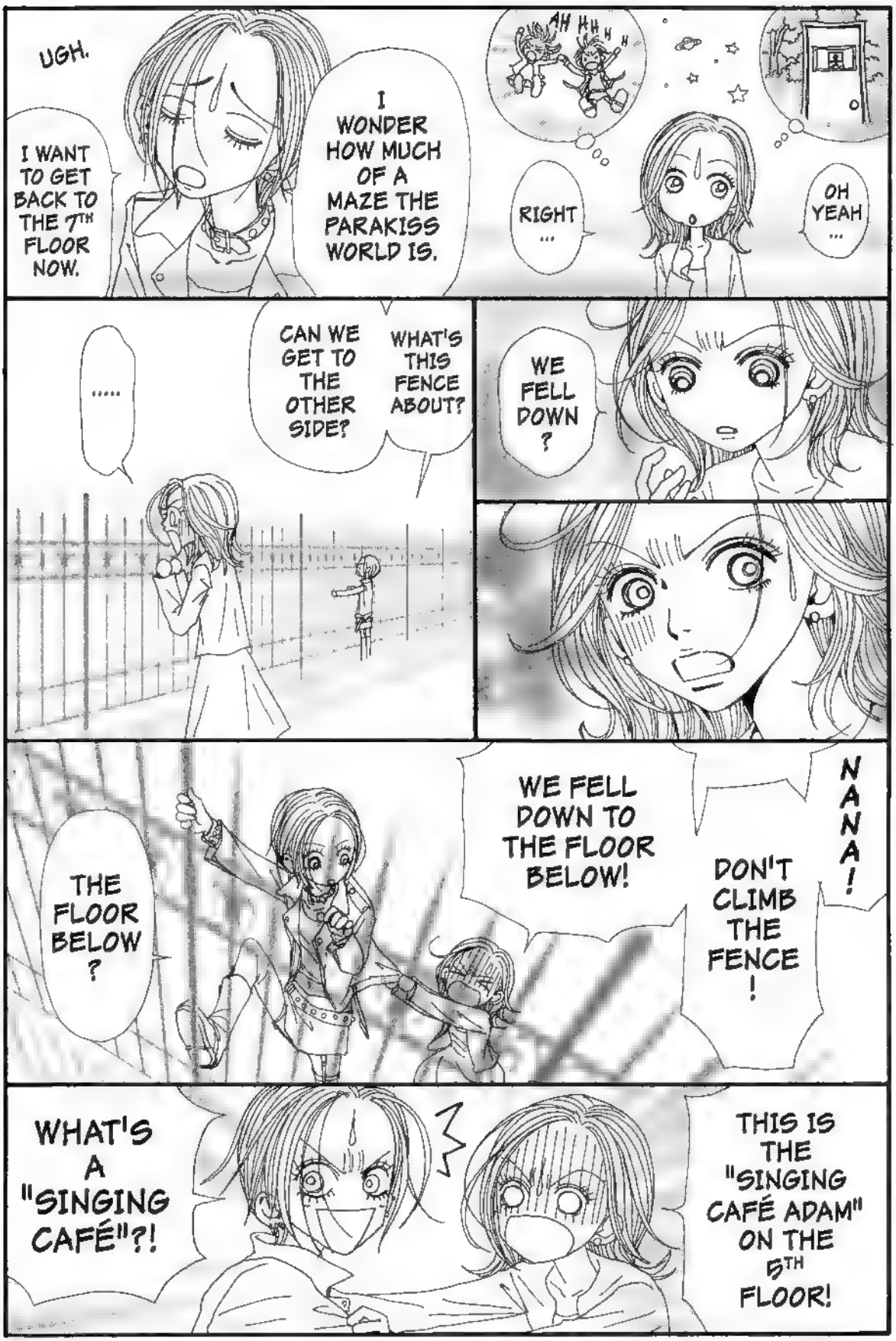
I'M THE HERO OF "THE HACHI SHOW."

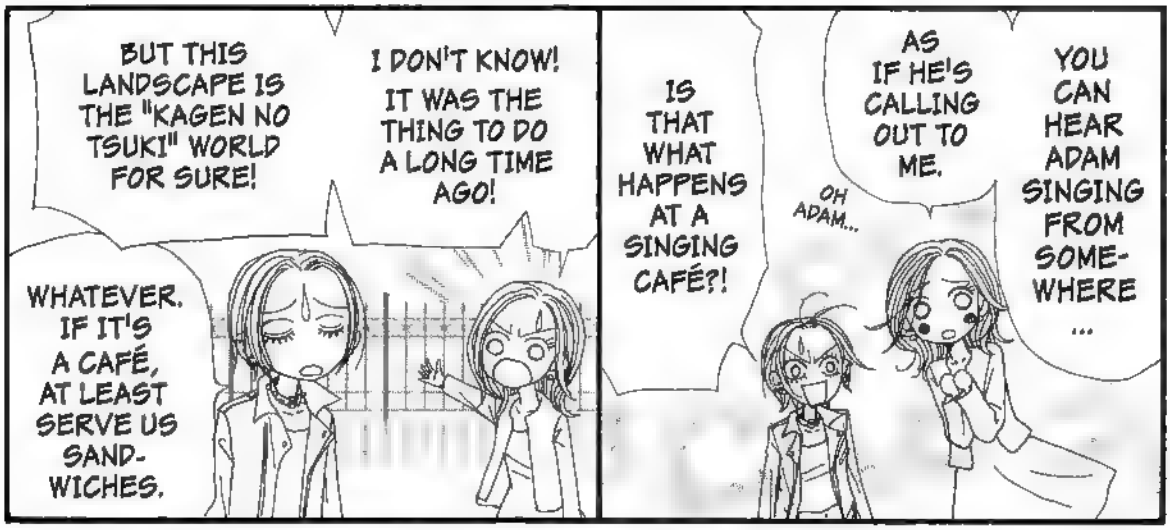
It's correct in the English version, too.

KONAMI'S MAKING IT.
A PS2 GAME, MAN.
WHAT KIND OF GAME?
A MAH-JONG GAME?
...
THEY'RE PUT-TING OUT A "NANA" GAME.
SOME-TIME NEXT SPRING ...
OH YEAH ...
LIKE WHAT KIND?
IT'S GOING TO BE A SIMULATION GAME.
"NANA" IS NOT A MAHJONG MANGA!
WHAT?!
WHEN YOU GO OUT, YOU CAN PICK WHAT TO WEAR FROM YOUR CLOSET.
YOU CAN RE-DECORATE YOUR ROOM.
THERE'RE LOTS OF FUN THINGS YOU CAN DO! ♡
HMMM.
I BET HACHI WOULD REALLY LIKE IT.
I GUESS THAT'S SOMETHING GIRLS WOULD REALLY LOVE.
SO IT'S A SIMULA-TION OF MOVING TO AND LIVING IN TOKYO.
IT'S REALISTIC, LIKE YOU EVEN NEED MONEY TO RIDE THE TRAIN
HARSH TOKE, DUDE.
AFTER THAT, YOU FIND WORK AND TRY TO SURVIVE IN TOKYO.
THE PLAYER'S A GIRL WHO JUST MOVED TO TOKYO. ♡
THERE'S FIVE LOOKS TO CHOOSE FROM.
A B C D E
ALL DIFFERENT TYPES, FROM GIRLIE TO GOTH.
AI YAZAWA DESIGNED THE CHARACTERS.
SO NEXT DOOR TO NANA AND HACHI.
PLEASE BE COOL TO THEM.
708
HEY THERE! ♡
707
YOU LIVE IN ROOM 708, A BARGAIN YOU FOUND THROUGH A REAL ESTATE AGENT.

THE PLAYER CAN OF COURSE BECOME FRIENDS WITH US...
...AND DATE THE CHAR-ACTERS OF THEIR CHOICE.
WHAT?!
SO THE PLAYER COULD DATE ME?
THAT ALONE MAKES THE GAME WORTH GETTING!
'CAUSE IF YOU REALLY WANT TO DATE ME, IT COSTS ¥100,000 PER DATE.
BUT EACH GAME DOESN'T COST ¥100,000. YOU CAN PLAY IT AS MUCH AS YOU WANT, SO THAT'S CHEAP.
WHAT A DEAL!
SO HOW 'BOUT IT, LADIES?
WE GOT OTHER CUTE GUYS, TOO...
BALDIES, LONG-HAIRS, YOU NAME IT!
BUT EVEN WITH HOT GOSSIP LIKE THAT, WHY DOESN'T ANYONE EVER COME IN HERE?
YOU SHOULD TURN THIS PLACE INTO A MAKE-OUT CLUB!
THE "KAGEN NO TSUKI" MOVIE JUST CAME OUT, SO MAYBE EVERYONE'S ON THE 5TH FLOOR.
WHY DON'T YOU GO CHECK IT OUT, SHIN?
GOOD IDEA.
I'M GOING TO GIVE MY CARD TO CHIAKI KURIYAMA.
SHIN♡
LATER, DUDE!
SAY HI TO ADAM FOR ME! ♡

IT'S ALMOST SILENT, LIKE A WHISPER.
WHAT'S THAT MUSIC?
WHY AM I HERE?
WHERE AM I?
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I SLEPT SO GOOD.
YAWN
NANA ?!
I FEEL GREAT.
WELL, I SURE PASSED OUT.
OH ...
WE GOT FOOLED BY THE EMERGENCY EXIT DOOR AND FELL INTO THIS PARALLEL UNIVERSE.
DON'T YOU REMEMBER?
A TRAP ?
IT'S PRETTY BIG FOR A TRAP.
HEY, WHERE THE HELL ARE WE?!
WE'RE STILL ALIVE!
YAY!


UGH.
I WANT TO GET BACK TO THE 7TH FLOOR NOW.
I WONDER HOW MUCH OF A MAZE THE PARAKISS WORLD IS.
AH HHHH
RIGHT ...
OH YEAH ...
.....
CAN WE GET TO THE OTHER SIDE?
WHAT'S THIS FENCE ABOUT?
WE FELL DOWN ?
THE FLOOR BELOW ?
WE FELL DOWN TO THE FLOOR BELOW!
DON'T CLIMB THE FENCE !
NANA!
WHAT'S A "SINGING CAFÉ"?!
THIS IS THE "SINGING CAFÉ ADAM" ON THE 5TH FLOOR!


BUT THIS LANDSCAPE IS THE "KAGEN NO TSUKI" WORLD FOR SURE!
I DON'T KNOW! IT WAS THE THING TO DO A LONG TIME AGO!
WHATEVER. IF IT'S A CAFÉ, AT LEAST SERVE US SAND-WICHES.
IS THAT WHAT HAPPENS AT A SINGING CAFÉ?!
AS IF HE'S CALLING OUT TO ME.
YOU CAN HEAR ADAM SINGING FROM SOME-WHERE ...
OH ADAM...

WE'VE LEFT OUR BODIES. WE'RE JUST SOULS NOW.
OF COURSE ...
Whoosh
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "OF COURSE" ?!
WHAT THE —?!

BUT UP 'TIL NOW WE WERE STARV-ING.
I DON'T EITHER.
BUT I'M NOT REALLY HUNGRY.
I DON'T WANT ANYTHING.
WHAT'S GOING ON?

I WANT TO GO BACK TO THE 7TH FLOOR!
I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE!
WE HAVE TO FIND THEM, NANA!
BUT WHERE ARE THEY ?!
WE HAVE TO RETURN TO OUR BODIES!
WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE!

WHAT'S BIG OR MANLY ABOUT YOU, NOBU?
HUH ?
.....
blub blub
IF IT'S A HARD-COVER, IT'LL BE EASY FOR A BIG MAN LIKE ME TO BUY, TOO.
AND A SPECIAL EDITION OF THE MANGA'S COMING OUT.
AND THE MOVIE'S GOING TO BE NOVEL-IZED.
"KAGEN NO TSUKI" IS BEING TURNED INTO A MOVIE ...
The Family Times
Yazawa Building 7F ☆ Snack Bar "Junko's Place" (irregular holidays) (Hours unknown)
COME ON DOWN!
I'M AN EVOLVED BEING WHO CAN'T DO SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST.
I'M SORRY WE HAVE NO MEAT 'CAUSE I CAN'T HUNT.
THANK YOU, CO-CAP-TAIN.
SO EAT UP. ♡
I MADE SOME SOUP WITH NUTS.
JUST KIDDING! I'M DEPENDING ON YOU, CAPTAIN.
slide——...
ding
WHAT'RE YOU SAY-ING?!
I WANNA GO!
WITH GOOD FOOD!
I BET ADAM'S PLACE IS HAVING A PARTY!
IF YOU GO DOWN TO THE 5TH FLOOR, YOU'LL NEVER RETURN TO THE WORLD OF THE LIVING!

Whoo
sh
.....
NO WONDER PEOPLE GO HERE INSTEAD OF JUNKO'S PLACE.
SO DIFFER-ENT FROM JUNKO'S.
SHIN♡ Call me!
IT'S INCRED-IBLE.
THAT'S ADAM'S CLUB?
THE MAIN STORY HAS A LONG WAY TO GO, BUT PLEASE KEEP THIS THE PERFECT CRIME.
I KNOW YOU CAN DO IT!
?
YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO WORRY ABOUT, YASU.
I SENT SHIN'S SPIRIT TO THE AFTER-WORLD.
I WONDER IF MS. CHIAKI'S THERE... ♡
WHERE'S SHIN?
AT SOME LADY'S AGAIN?
WHY'RE YOU DOING THIS TO ME?!
I HATE THESE BONUS PAGES!
PLEASE STOP IT NOW!
Nana
c/o Shojo Beat
VIZ Media
PO Box 77010
San Francisco, CA 94107
IF YOU SEE MY BODY, SEND A LETTER HERE!

WE CAN'T TURN BACK NOW! JUNKO'S PLACE FORCED TO OPEN IN VOLUME 12 TOO!

"NANA" Vol. 11! Another fat volume with Five whole chapters!

NEWS!

Cookie on sale the 26th of every month!
http://cookie.shueisha.co.jp/

You can read the continuation of Vol. 11 in "Cookie"! Good news for people who bought "NANA" Vol. 11 right when it hit the stands! "NANA" in the October issue of "Cookie", on sale August 26, continues where Vol. 11 left off! And the story enters a new chapter! Why don't you start reading it regularly now?

"NANA" PS2 Game in the Works!

★ Go to http://www.konamijpn.com/NANA/ for more information about the game!

Konami will come out with a "NANA" simulation game. It will go on sale sometime next spring. The price is not yet set. Anyways, go buy the hardware first. This year's Christmas gift should be a PS2! Hey guy over there! Buy a PS2 for your wife and daughter!

The Family Times

Aug. 11, 2004

"Kagen no Tsuki" Special Edition!

With a new design that looks like real literature!

Both volumes on sale September 17! Cashing in on the movie? Even if you already own the manga, you should check this out! Full color illustrations that weren't in the tankobons are included in the illustration gallery at the end of each volume. It's like a small illustration collection. ♡ People won't know the books are manga, 'cause they're novel-size, grown-up-looking hardbacks. Buy both volumes together!

Author — Ai Yazawa

Price — ¥1200 each (incl. tax)

Shueisha

Read the novelization of the "Kagen no Tsuki" movie!

On sale September 3rd, before the movie's released!

Beautiful prose and masterful psychological descriptions. Ms. Kanae Shimokawa, who's novelized many of our family's manga, has done a fabulous job on the "Kagen no Tsuki" novelization! The book contains many stills from the movie. There's also a three-way discussion between the author Kanae Shimokawa, Ai Yazawa, and the grand director Ken Nikai who also wrote the script. The book is a stylish paperback.

Author — Kanae Shimokawa

Suggested Price — ¥780 (incl. tax)

Shueisha

"Have You Seen Me?"

Misato Uehara (alias?)

Nobuo Terashima

Nana Osaki

Nana Komatsu

First-run screenings nationwide October 2004!

Mobile Site: kagen@dwango.tv
URL: www.kagen.jp

Chiaki Kuriyama
as Mitsuki Mochizuki

Hiroki Narimiya
as Tomomi Anzai

Tomoka Kurokawa
Motoki Ochiai
Ayumi Ito
Takanori Jinnai (Guest Appearance)
Ken Ogata
Hyde

Kagen no Tsuki

Last Quarter

Director: Ken Nikai
Distributor: Shochiku

© "Kagen no Tsuki" Production Committee

☆ All products listed in this newspaper really exist. Please don't be afraid to buy them!

The 2001 Chofu City Hanabi Festival was really postponed 'cause of a typhoon and was rescheduled for October 27. When I was taking photos by the Tama River, an old man started talking to me and told me that "the fireworks festival that was cancelled is going to be held soon." The entire fireworks arc was born that way. A uniquely precious encounter. It came out of this chance encounter with that man. Thank you very much. –Ai Yazawa

Ai Yazawa is the creator of many popular manga titles, including *Tenshi Nanka Janai* (I'm No Angel) and *Gokinjo Monogatari* (Neighborhood Story). Another series, *Kagen no Tsuki* (Last Quarter), was made into a live-action movie and released in late 2004. American readers were introduced to Yazawa's stylish and sexy storytelling in 2002 when her title *Paradise Kiss* was translated into English.

Nana has become the all-time best-selling shojo title from Japanese publishing giant Shueisha, and the series even garnered a Shogakukan Manga Award in the girls category in 2003. A live-action *Nana* movie was released in Japan in 2006.

NANA
VOL. 11

The Shojo Beat Manga Edition

STORY AND ART BY AI YAZAWA

English Adaptation/Allison Wolfe
Translation/Tomo Kimura
Touch-up Art & Lettering/Sabrina Heep
Cover Design/Courtney Utt
Interior Design/Julie Behn
Editor/Pancha Diaz

Editor in Chief, Books/Alvin Lu
Editor in Chief, Magazines/Marc Weidenbaum
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Printed in Canada

Published by VIZ Media, LLC
P.O. Box 77010
San Francisco, CA 94107

Shojo Beat Manga Edition
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
First printing, July 2008